

From Bethlehem to the Gates of Heaven

Bible based stories
about Micah, his
family and his
adventures
growing up in
New Testament
times, after meeting
Jesus.



A Five Book Series

Book ONE

Journey to Bethlehem

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are credited to their original source.



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Preface

PLEASE READ TO UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUENESS OF THIS PRINTED AND DIGITAL/ELECTRONIC EDITION.

To assist the reader with knowing the characters, the author has added a list of the characters in an appendix, starting on page 103, describing each character.

The story of the Nativity Scene will not be portrayed as it has been on Christmas cards. The historical facts surrounding this world-changing event have been interwoven with the best understanding of the culture and times of the first century; and what is told here, the events that are not Biblically based nor historically accurate are presented as close as possible to the Israeli culture of the times, with the expansion of the imagination of the author.

As this series unfolds, it came back to the [Joel](#), age 14 and [Jesus](#), age 11 grow up as best friends when Jesus came up from Egypt.

Their adventures, while living in Nazareth, are presented closely based on the Jewish culture of that time. Later, Joel's son, [Micah](#), takes over as the main character after he meets Jesus and saw his small lunch feed over 5,000 people.

It is the desired hope of the author that this series will inspire the reader to seek out a personal relationship with [God](#), to learn of His desire to show mercy to all who seek Him; go to the Holy Scriptures and read the stories as God has written them, and not only grow closer to the Creator of this world but reach out to others and share the unmerited love of God with them.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”¹

1 i.1 - [John 3:16](#)

Dedication

The first book in our series, “from Bethlehem to the Gates of Heaven” is dedicated to my father (**Virgil Dean Freed**), who inspired in me the spirit of servitude and helping those in need by his living example of the Golden Rule: “**And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.**”²

He gave and gave until there was nothing more he could do; leaving this sin-cursed earth at the age of 44.

He lived his life fulfilling the words of Jesus:

“**Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**”³ and my mother, (**Mary**

Elizabeth Freed), who truly enjoyed completing crossword puzzles and raised three children with the words of Psalm 118:24, “**This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.**”⁴ and my daughter, (**Crystal Dawn Freed**) who suffered a paralyzing cancer for nearly six years but left me with great inspiration when I asked the toddler “What are you going to do when you get to Heaven?”



2 i.1 – [Luke 6:31](#)

3 i.1 – [John 15:13](#)

4 i.1 – [Psalm 118:24](#)



Before I could even blink my eyes, she responded with a smile, “I’m going to help Jesus with the babies!”

Crystal has been very busy since November 1979.

Introduction

This series begins with the unique journey of Micah's grandparents, [Jeremiah](#), [Ruth](#), and 18-month-old son, Joel. ([Joseph](#) and [Mary](#), the divinely chosen guardian and mother of Jesus, make a similar journey two years later.)

Jeremiah was born in Bethlehem in 33 BC, so he was glad to move back. At the age of 13, his family moved to Nazareth because his father needed to help Jabir, Jeremiah's older brother, who supervises a large farm just south of the village.

Through the small farming community, [Jabir](#) became friends with [Nir](#), a wealthy olive and citrus grove owner and encouraged him to hire Jeremiah to work in his orchard in the Jezreel Valley. Nir hired him to work in his orchard; however, he perceived that Jeremiah had a connection with animals and had little interest in farming or working with trees. He quickly transferred Jeremiah to work in the stables.

In the Spring of 9 BC, [Caleb](#) asked his uncle Nir to assist in finding a manager for his Bethlehem Stable, Inn, and Café. Caleb manages Hezekiah's Inn & Café located in Bethlehem and helped with the larger one in Jerusalem, managed by his sister, [Kalanit](#), and his father [Chacham](#) until his recent death.

Nir immediately recognized the family's need and recommended Jeremiah for the management of the stables and Inn and his wife Ruth, who worked in his kitchen, to oversee Caleb's Café. Due to the urgent need for a manager, Caleb accepted his uncle's advice and began arrangements to hire whoever the couple his uncle recommended.

Jeremiah and Ruth moved to Bethlehem from Nazareth. They traveled with a merchant's caravan, owned by [Lampros](#), who purchased olive oil and various fruits from Nir.

During previous years, Lampros and Jeremiah became good

friends. Even though Jeremiah was a Jew and Lampros a Greek, neither were devoted to their religious heritage.

The young couple from Nazareth were not well versed in their spiritual upbringing and amazing history of their Hebrew heritage; but as they traveled to Bethlehem, they would encounter either a stranger, a Rabbi, and/or a Bedouin who knew the area and shared its rich history. Their son Joel, who was 3 years older than Jesus, as the years past, they became good friends and grew up together. Their adventures will be in Book Two.

The family of Mary, the soon-to-be mother of Jesus, had just recently moved to [Nazareth from Sepphoris](#).⁵ [Anna Marie](#), her mother, worked for a wealthy landowner in Sepphoris, but was paid a very meager wage. When she married [Heli](#), she moved to Nazareth to be with her husband, This is where Ruth met Anna Marie, the maternal grandmother of Jesus.

A major turning point for Micah's life occurred in Bethsaida when Jesus used his small lunch to feed over five thousand people.

That miracle, followed by seeing Jesus and [Peter](#) walking on the water made a deep impression on this eight-year-old's life and he wanted to live the life that God had planned for him.

A this decision drove Micah to learn all he could about Jesus; the teachings and miracles of Jesus led him to a life of service to God that provided an excellent Christian example for others.

⁵ Book 29 page 43 *The Land of Galilee & the North*, Colonel Sir Charles W. Wilson; Ariel Publishing House, Jerusalem November 1975: "the supposed site of the home of the parents of the Virgin." – The mother of Jesus.

Chapter 1

Day 1 Sunday

*Jeremiah and Ruth leave Nazareth in early spring, 9 B.C.
The move to Bethlehem was a major leap of faith
that would change their lives entirely.*

As they entered the Jezreel Valley, a glance at each other, as their eyes met, the couple knew this was it; there was no turning back; the life they shared in Nazareth was gone. An unpredictable future lay ahead for the young couple and their 18-month-old son.

“A new world is about to open for us,” Jeremiah told Ruth, as they watched Joel, toddle through the spring flowers.

Jeremiah, who was born in Bethlehem, wondered what the village would be like and what history he could learn. He knew Bethlehem was an important village to God, but he had never taken the time to learn of its significance.

Ruth had never been to Bethlehem; however, she was excited to accompany her husband wherever God would lead them. Then she smiled, remembering what [Rabbi Tamir](#) told her, referring to the [prophet Jeremiah](#), before Joel was born:

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”⁶

A house, owned by their new employer, Caleb, was being prepared for them, five miles south of Jerusalem, in the village of Bethlehem, Judea, and only half a mile from the Inn & Café where they would be working.

The move, the long journey, and the small village culture were not the only things they would be facing.

6 i.1 - [Jeremiah 1:5](#)

One hour into their journey, Ruth said, “Joel is getting hungry.”
“We will stop before Nain to rest the donkeys,” Jeremiah replied,
“I need to rearrange their loads, too.”

The couple sat under the shade of an oak tree for a few moments while Joel was playing in the sand after eating his fill of bread and fruit.

“Thank you,” Jeremiah complimented Ruth, “for packing our provisions for this journey.”

“Little Joel was a great help too,” she replied, smiling. “He slept most of the time.”

“He is a lot of fun,” replied Jeremiah. “There is something special about him. He will grow up incredibly wise, he has a good teacher in his mother.”

“I agree he will be incredibly special when he grows up. Our son will be like his father. Your skills and talents, Jeremiah, have always amazed me.”

Jeremiah laughed, “When I was younger, I wanted to build a boat and take it out to the sea. It was a childish dream of mine to work with my hands and create something from a dead tree, but the result was good firewood.”

“I remember,” she said “how your life changed when you began working with the animals. You have a special talent for taking care of them, they understand you.”

“I was seventeen years old when I began working with Nir in his orchards southeast of Nazareth. He quickly transferred me when he saw I was better with horses than trees! My new job was to maintain the stables for the farm animals; however, my care for them proved I had the talent to go above and beyond his expectations of an employer,” Jeremiah continued.

“Nir was extremely pleased with your work. We should be going now. [Netanel](#) and [Rebecca](#) are expecting us for dinner. She is preparing a special meal of lamb especially for you,” Ruth reminded Jeremiah.

“Wonderful,” Jeremiah replied. “She can cook almost as good as you. I look forward to my visits with Netanel, your highly intelligent brother-in-law. I have been wanting to ask him about the battles that occurred in the Jezreel Valley.”

“You'll have plenty of time after we eat.” Ruth encouraged him, “and I must get some of Rebecca’s recipes she has collected from foreign countries.”

After loading their few things on one of the donkeys, they headed up the northwestern slope of Mount Moreh, approaching Netanel and Rebecca’s home. She had a light meal of barley bread, olives, lentil stew, grapes, figs, and fish already prepared.

“Shalom, we are so glad to see you.” Netanel greeted them.

Ruth and Rebecca hugged as only sisters can, knowing it may be a long time before they see each other again.

“Wow, little Joel has grown so much,” Rebecca exclaimed, as she snatched up her little nephew. The trio went inside leaving the men to talk about things of lesser interest to the ladies. While they set the table for lunch.

“Soon he will be two, and wandering all over the place,” Ruth said. Rebecca continued bragging about her nephew, “He is so cute, and those beautiful eyes! You could leave him here if he is too much to manage on the trip,” she teased her older sister.

“Oh no, not a chance,” grinned Ruth as they sat at a table outside to eat.

After eating their brief lunch, the two groups returned to their discussion.

After the evening meal, Netanel and Jeremiah sat outside on the porch, enjoying the setting sun.

“What a beautiful view of the Jezreel Valley, I shall remember this site for a long-time,” remarked Jeremiah.

“The valley’s beauty is marred by the many wars that were fought there, major battles have stained the valley,” Netanel replied.

“I’ve been meaning to ask you about that,” Jeremiah said.

“To the south was the battle of [Saul](#) and the Ammonites where Saul and his three sons died. The Ammonites found their bodies, cut off their heads, and hung the bodies on the walls of Beth Shan but the valiant men of Jabesh-Gilead came in the night and removed their bodies, burned them, and buried their bones under a tree in Jabesh”⁷

Jeremiah said, “Netanel, you have studied well; I am always amazed by your research. But why did the men from Jabesh-Gilead risk their lives to get Saul’s body and his sons?”

“Thank you,” he replied, “God has blessed me with time and talent to learn the many battles our people have suffered in the past. The prophet Samuel told us of the bravery of Saul and the power of God when [Nahash](#), the Ammonite, wanted to conquer Jabesh-Gilead, he proposed an agreement with the men of the village to spare them:

“On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.”⁸ ***“The Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.”***⁹

Therefore, Saul rallied the others of the Israelites, and 300,000 men came from Israel and 30,000 came from Judah. And it was so on the morrow, ***“that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.”***¹⁰

“No wonder these men wanted to get King Saul’s body and bury it properly.’ Jeremiah said.

7 i.1 - [1st Samuel 31:1-13](#)

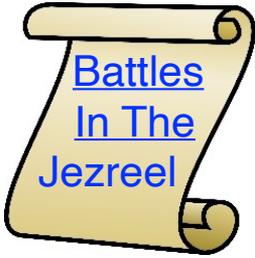
8 i.1 - [1st Samuel 11:2](#)

9 i.1 - [1st Samuel 11:6](#)

10 i.1 - [1st Samuel 11:11](#)

“However, it's getting late but tell me again of the great battle of ***“The sword of the Lord and Gideon”***¹¹ and why did he take on such a large army with so few men,” asked Jeremiah.

“That was a true ‘Miracle Battle’ that God won with just the three hundred men,” Netanel explained. “They were handpicked by



God for Gideon; and He gave Gideon the wisdom to go directly into battle against odds that far outnumbered his troops. What the Midianites did not consider was the spiritual strength and wisdom that only the One true God could provide for such a battle as this.”

“I have a scroll¹² for you that lists the major battles fought outside my front door in the Valley of Jezreel over many years. Our tradition tells us the great prophet **Samuel** wrote about Gideon. He explains it better than I ever could.” Netanel concluded.

“Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

11 i.1 - [Judges 7:18](#)

12 i.163 - List of Remarkable Battles in the Bible, [Scott J. Shifferd](#).

And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This



God chooses 300 men for Gideon
Credit, i.266 - Gustave Doré mutualart.com

shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one boweth down upon his knees to drink. And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place {going back home}. So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host {the Midianites and the Amalekites}; for I have delivered it {these two camps} into thine hand. But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host: And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host. And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

And when Gideon was come {to a tent of a Medianite}, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along. And his fellow answered {interpreting the man's dream} and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.

And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian. And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps

within the pitchers. And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch {10:00 PM}; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands. And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host {the Midianites and Amalekites}¹³ ran, and cried, and fled. And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every {of the host} man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath {See Map of the Battle of Gideon}. And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites.¹⁴

And Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim, saying, Come down against the Midianites, and take before them the waters {rivers} unto Bethbarah and Jordan. Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together and took the waters unto Bethbarah and Jordan.”¹⁵

“That scroll would be wonderful,” said Jeremiah.

¹³ Table of Maps on page 142

¹⁴ i.88 - Battle Map of Gideon's Battle - biblestudy.org

¹⁵ i.1 - [Judges 7:1-24](#)

“I know when I get to Bethlehem some folks will talk about these battles and your research will help me tremendously.”

The men decided to continue their discussion of the warfare history of Israel until morning; little Joel was fast asleep, and the two sisters excitedly exchanged recipes of foreign origin.

“The recipes that you have picked up from travelers in different parts of the world will be very helpful,” said Ruth. “At the Inn we will have folks from the Via Maris¹⁶ road from Rome to Egypt and from other faraway places: China and India traveling the Silk Road. We will be just a short distance off the main road to Jerusalem.”¹⁷

“We must talk more of the different foods for China, India, Rome, and Ethiopia in the morning, but you need to get some rest,” Rebecca had prepared a special bread for their journey; from a new recipe she received from her friend Anna Marie of

Sepphoris¹⁸. She mixed up the regular wheat bread dough, rolled it out flat, then added a thin layer of honey, cinnamon, and a small amount of nutmeg. She prepared her large pottery oven over the hot coals from the evening’s fire. Next, she rolled the flattened dough into a log and with a large sharp knife cut the log into pieces at an angle to make them larger.



Honey-cinnamon bread
Credit: i.45 - The author

16 i.24 [Jewish Virtual Library](#) One of the most important trade routes in the Middle East during ancient times

17 i.83 [Transport Geography](#) “The Silk Road was the most enduring trade route in human history, being used for about 1,500 years. Its name is taken from the prized Chinese textile that flowed from Asia to the Middle East and Europe, although many other commodities were traded along the route.”

18 i.255 – [Sepphoris](#) was known to the Roman world from the second century CE by its Roman name, Diocaesarea.- Dr. James Strange, [The Bible and Interpretation](#)

DAY 2 Monday

Leaving Nain Monday morning to arrive in Jenin at dusk.

The next morning, Rebecca gave the bread and recipe to her sister and told her it was from a recipe her friend from Sepphoris had given to her.

“Anna's little girl, Mary, figured out the process and chose the ingredients. A very smart young girl she is,” explained Rebecca.

“These are very tasty. I hope to meet Anna Marie and Mary someday when we return for a visit,” said Ruth.

“We must get going,” said Jeremiah, “Lampros and his assistant [Cyrus](#) will meet us in Jenin tonight with their caravan.”

Following an abundance of hugs and goodbyes, Rebecca reluctantly surrendered Joel to his mother, with a kiss on his cheek.

Joel tired quickly of the early morning walk and soon Jeremiah lifted him up and put him on one of the donkeys to ride. He was much happier up there because he could see more than just donkey knees.

The little lad enjoyed seeing the valley. He had no knowledge of the battles of the past that Jeremiah and Netanel discussed for hours the previous evening. The walk across Jezreel Valley was very refreshing. Springtime brought out the abundant colorful Anemone wildflowers and off in the distance the orange and lemon trees of Nir's orchards could be seen blooming as the couple paused to look back for one last view of home.

As they gazed back at the distant orchards near Nazareth, Jeremiah continued, “We may return here someday.”

Resuming their walk, southward toward Jenin, Jeremiah said.

“Many of our family and friends thought it was foolish of us to leave. Rabbi Tamir told me something I still do not understand:

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.”¹⁹

Maybe it is similar to what God did with Gideon, He took a few men to win a major battle. It may be that God has a specific plan for our lives.”

What seemed like a short walk through the beautiful valley took the family four hours to arrive near Sandala, just as the noon sun began to heat up everything around.

Joel had fun playing in the shallow stream that flowed gently past an exceptionally large oak tree where Ruth and Jeremiah sat in its shade.

“We will rest here until a gentle breeze comes, then we will know the chill of the evening will follow in a few hours. We should have our campsite set up in Jenin by the time Lampros and Cyrus arrive.”

Joel came from chasing fish in the stream to join his parents in the shade, only to fall fast asleep.

All too soon, the anticipated cool breeze drifted in from the east.

Jeremiah prepared the donkeys for the next part of the long journey.

Ruth asked if Jeremiah was concerned about going by way of Jenin, as it was the northernmost border of Samaria and was settled exclusively by Samaritans.

“No,” he replied. “The Jewish-Samaritan conflict is mostly with the extremist of the groups. Lampros has many friends in Samaria and we should not face any problems.”



Jeremiah's camp at Jenin
Credit: i.174 - Adventure.com

19 i.1 - [1 Corinthians 1:27](http://1Corinthians.1:27)

Arriving in Jenin brought an end to a beautiful day's walk.

The hills behind them were colorful in the evening sunset, and their former home was hidden somewhere in the distant mist.

After giving Joel his bowl of vegetables, Ruth began preparing the evening meal for Jeremiah and the soon-to-arrive caravan.

Her thoughts wandered back to their home, and she was instantly saddened by the realization that her family was going to live so far from her sister Rebecca. "Goodbye, Nazareth; we are on our way to a new life at Bethlehem near Jerusalem," Ruth was thinking.

Jeremiah's statement interrupted her thoughts: "It will not be long before dark," Jeremiah said as he pitched their tent. "Lampros and Cyrus should be here soon."

He anxiously watched the northwestern horizon in anticipation of Lampros' caravan coming from Megiddo.

The golden sun was sinking slowly behind the hills when the silhouette of camels and donkeys appeared just before dark.

The caravan arrived at Jeremiah's campsite in time for the evening meal.



Lampros' caravan seen at sunset.

Credit: i.256 - Dreamstime.com

Lampros operated his caravan differently than most other caravans. Others were in a hurry to get to their distribution points, Lampros preferred to travel slower and peddle his wares along his route. This was great for Jeremiah as he met many of Lampros' customers and Ruth enjoyed the visits with the ladies of the caravan, discussing recipes.

"So good to see you again my friend, you have quite a large cargo," he greeted the caravanners.



Cyrus's new camel

Credit: i.140 - [Sergio and Rhoda in Israel](#)

“Thanks to Cyrus’s hard work, he purchased a considerable amount of goods while he was in Acco. After traveling a bit by ship, I think he forgot how much our camels could carry, so we purchased another camel,”

Lampros teased Cyrus. “When we arrive in Jerusalem, we meet up with Arun, our contact from India. He is a merchant that supplies us with the wonderful spices and ointments of his country. The chief spices we sell are myrrh, frankincense, saffron; calamus and cinnamon, and aloes. Thank you, Ruth, for preparing such a refreshing meal,” Lampros continued. “Morning will come all too soon, and tomorrow will be busy for us. At Jenin we have four faithful accounts; I hope to pick up two others as well.”

“At the bazaar, we will sell a lot of spices and a considerable variety of materials because we are at the major crossroads running to Haifa, Afula, Nazareth, and Sychar and our buyers have a large geographical customer base. We also sell a wide selection of vegetables and fruits.”

“This will also lighten our burden on the animals, so we will stock up with specialty items in Sychar for Jericho and Jerusalem. Our clients west of here buy differently than the ones that live south of Sychar.”

“You were wise in traveling this early in the spring. By late Sivan²⁰, the weeds will be overgrown in the uncultivated areas, and the pesky bugs would be your continual torment,” Lampros commented to Jeremiah.

²⁰ Sivan the third month of the Hebrew calendar equal to Mid May to Mid June.

“Tell me about your journey from Tyre,” Jeremiah requested. “The camels seem more heavily laden than when you would stop in to purchase from Nir’s orchards.”

“Going north, we sell more fruits, vegetables, and olive oil,” Lampros told him. “I will have lots of room for oranges and lemons from our good friend Nir, when they are almost ripe. Coming back from the north, we carry extra products, most of which we will sell at Sychar.”

The unanimous decision was quickly made to retire to their tents because the busy day ahead.

DAY 3 TUESDAY

The morning in Jenin's bazaar, then off to Sychar for the night.

“Ruth and I are so grateful that you have allowed us to join you in this caravan. We are blessed to be able to travel with safety and wonderful companionship, but also quite leisurely. While you and Cyrus go about earning your living, I will escort your wives and Ruth around Jenin and, thanks to Netanel, along with a bit of Jezreel Valley history,” said Jeremiah.

[Alexia](#), Lampros's wife, led the procession through the bazaar shopping expedition while Jeremiah kept a watchful lookout for anyone who might attempt to harm the ladies.

“One would think,” he surmised, “these three are like young girls out for a shopping spree.”

Even though she enjoyed shopping with the girls, Alexia's focus, not revealed by her actions, was to survey the various vendors for prospective clients for Lampros and Cyrus.

Ruth was glad to see an Egyptian booth offering a wide variety of easily preserved foods. She introduced herself and obtained several important recipes to use in the menu at the Inn's Cafe in Bethlehem. The booth owner, Akl, promised to bring her a special Egyptian ingredient on his next trip from Egypt. He told her he vacationed at Mt Carmel, but this year he and his family are returning to Memphis, Egypt, his hometown, and would stop at the Bethlehem Inn on their way back to Jenin. She purchased two of his unique Egyptian clay pots that will be used to store food and drink.

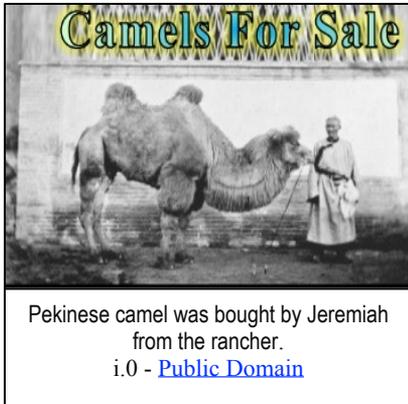
“In Sychar,” [Kallisto](#), Cyrus's wife, said, “you will find vendors from India and China. The village has some very unscrupulous people living there also, but we will introduce you to our good friends there.” she said.

“That's right, we will help you,” Alexia shared. “In Sychar there are plenty of people of low character. We know the more reputable ones and will introduce you to the honest ones.”

Ruth was very appreciative as she was not familiar with business dealings with foreigners and realized she could be a gullible target for a dishonest peddler.

As they neared the end of the bazaar area, Jeremiah was distracted by a sign: **“Camels For Sale.”**²¹

He could not resist checking this one out, hoping the brief detour would not offend the ladies.



“Not at all, Jeremiah, camel buying is at the top of my list!” Kallisto said, causing all to laugh.

The rancher had 20 camels to choose quality of one in particular: young, about 5 years old, very healthy and had a good nature about her.

Upon further inspection for parasites,²² he checked the camel’s ears and tail and watched the gait of the camel as she walked away

from him, he could tell the quality of the animal was just exceptional and healthy.

He knew to stand behind the camel and watch it walk, checking the gait for irregularities, the ears and tail also have telltale signs about the health and strength of the camel. “It’s all about the hump,” he whispered to himself. He then spoke out loud, more to himself than those in his immediate company.

“The hump is a fat store - not water, as is sometimes believed - and there should be space behind it. This indicates good breeding. Then there’s the question of personality. Camels will not display too many unique characteristics until about the age of four or five but after that, by watching how they interact

²¹ i.0 The Pekingese Camel - [Public domain](#)

²² i.36 Common Parasitic Diseases of Camel - [Veterinary world.org](#)

with other camels (as well as humans) one should get an idea of whether it is generally cheery...or whether they are inherently grumpy, and therefore best passed on.”²³



*Jeremiah & Ruth load up their new camel.
Credit:i.174 - adventure.com/*

He decided to purchase the animal and named her **Simchah**²⁴, he felt that she would bring joy to their camp, The ladies were rejoicing because now they had sufficient help to carry their purchases back to the camp. Jeremiah took the opportunity during the walk back to share some of Jenin’s great

geography. He pointed out the abundance of spring water and the fertile soil of the vicinity “that provided nutrition for the olive groves. Agriculture is a For main source for the thriving city.”

Later that morning, Jeremiah joined Lampros and Cyrus; the wives stayed at the campsite to prepare for the journey to Sychar. Just before sunset they arrived at the Sychar campsite; the caravan men set up as Lampros shared the good news around a warm campfire. “We were able to persuade the two prospective vendors at the bazaar to buy from us!” “That’s great news,” Ruth exclaimed, as she gave the hungry men some fresh baked honey-cinnamon bread.

23 i.174 - A beginner’s guide to shopping for a camel - adventure.com

24 i.234 - Simchah means Happy: S is for success, in all you will do; I is for inclusive, never leaving others out; M is for mirth, your laughter; C is for change, you are able to adapt; H is for heart, warm and loving; A is for attractive, inside and out; and H is for hope, the encouragement you give - names.org

DAY 4 WEDNESDAY

An early morning in the Sychar bazaar then off to Fatsa 'el.

When they came to the crossroads leading to Dotham they met a traveler who told the story of [Joseph](#). He pointed out the area where his Joseph's father [Jacob](#) sent him to look for his brothers and shared the powerful life experiences of God watching out for Joseph, which proved that even the bad things that continued to happen, God was always in control. Soon they arrived at a shady spot with a spring nearby and the stranger continued, "Somewhere along that route is the pit that Joseph's brothers threw him in and sold him as a slave to a traveling caravan of Ishmaelites, who then took him to Egypt. Joseph suffered many highlights and disasters in his lifetime. "He went from being sold into slavery as a young man to become second in power only reporting to [Pharoah](#), who gave him control to save Egypt from starving because of the coming famine,"²⁵ he concluded.

"However, throughout his life he always believed God oversaw the events in his life. He told his brothers:

"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."²⁶

"Joseph was sold into slavery as a young man; however, God's plan for him was to become 2nd in power only reporting to Pharoah who gave him control to save Egypt from starving because of the coming famine,"²⁷ he concluded.

25 i.1- [Genesis 41:41](#)

26 i.1- [Genesis 50:20](#)

27 i.1- [Genesis 41:41](#)

“Nearly a thousand years later,”²⁸ Cyrus declared, “[Elisha](#) the prophet lived here, and another miracle occurred. Syria’s King sent horses, chariots, and a great host²⁹ to Dothan to bring Elisha to him. Syria’s King [Benhadad](#) believed Elisha could read the minds of other kings. God had other plans.”³⁰

“That sounds interesting,” said Kallisto, “Please tell us more.”

“Elisha lived up there in Dothan,” Cyrus continued as he pointed toward the little village on the hill. “His assistant, [Nachman](#)³¹, was watching the sunset after Elisha retired from a long day’s walk, thinking to himself: “I don’t think I have ever seen such a beautiful evening.”

However, during the early hours of the morning, he was awakened by strange sounds and when he looked out of the tent into the pre-dawn light, he was immediately startled.

The Syrians were all around the base of the hill, many right where we are today!

He quickly woke up Elisha, he saw what Nachman saw, he smiled. Elisha did not care who was against him, he knew God’s strength was there with them.

“Nachman was a little more than just worried,” said Jeremiah.

“Oh, yes,” Cyrus went on. “When he saw the “*host compassed the city both with horses and chariots.*”³²

He said to Elisha, “Alas, my master! how shall we do?”²⁸ And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.”³³

28 i.1- [2 Kings 6:13](#)

29 i.1- [2 Kings 6:14](#)

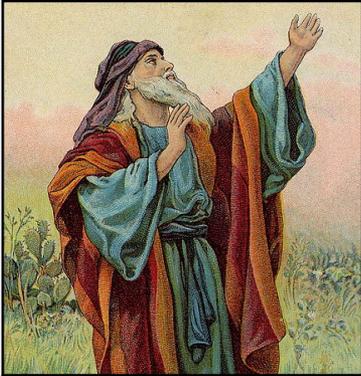
30 i.1- [2 Kings 6:8-12](#)

31 i.243 - Nachman means “comforter” – [behindthename.com](#)

32 i.1- [2nd Kings 6:15, 16](#)

33 i.1- [2nd Kings 6:16](#)

“And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD



Elisha praying to God

Credit: i.220 - clipart-library.com/

opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”³⁴ He boldly told him: ***“If God be for us who can stand against us?”***³⁵

“There’s more,” he continued. “Elisha prayed asking God to blind the Syrians, and He did it in such a way that they could not see where they

were. Elisha convinced them they were

in the wrong place and should follow him. He led them on a twelve-mile journey into the capital of Samaria! Then he prayed asking God to open their eyes and they saw where they were and feared for their lives, but Elisha kept the King of Samaria from killing the Syrians because by feeding them and sending them home, it would show their King Benhadad that the Israeli God is the true God. The Syrians realized any battles with the Israelites would be a spiritual battle, not fought with conventional weapons so they left them in peace.”³⁶

“So, the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.”³⁷

“After a four-hour walk, the travelers arrived at Jacob’s Well, just outside of Sychar a few hours before sunset, giving them enough time to set up a camp.

34 i.1- [2nd Kings 6:17](#)

35 i.1 - [Romans 8:31](#)

36 i.1 - [Ephesians 6:12](#)

37 i.1 - [2nd Kings 6:23](#)

Arriving at the top of the great hill of Samaria, the weary couple from Nazareth rested; Lampros's crew set up camp. The women started the evening meal as Lampros spoke of the importance of Shechem to the southwest. Not being of a Hebrew background, he only knew of a few historical events that he learned from the residents.

“One important happening near here was when Abraham arrived and his God made him a promise that the land would belong to his descendants they would become a great nation.³⁸” Lampros told them.

“I remember what our Rabbi said about that,” Jeremiah interjected. “He built his first alter to worship God, the creator of the heaven and earth.”³⁹

“Tradition has it that the bones of Joseph were brought up out of Egypt ⁴⁰ and buried near Jacob's well by the gate; and the son of King [Solomon, Rehoboam](#), was coronated king⁴¹ near here.” Someone in the group brought up.

“One other thing about this area is its location between the two mountains of Gerizim and Ebal,⁴²” Cyrus shared.

“In the morning, Ruth and I are going to Jacob's well with Simchah and bring back plenty of water. I can join you before noon to help inspect the livestock you are considering” Jeremiah said.

“Thank you. Both of you have been a real help.” stated Lampros. In Sychar, Lampros and Cyrus sold a large quantity of their wares and purchased a supply of local items at the major crossroads, leading up from Egypt one road headed west northwest toward Caesarea the other northeast toward Damascus.

38 i.1 - [Genesis 12:7](#) and [verse 2](#)

39 i.1 - [Genesis 1:1](#)

40 i.1 - [Joshua 24:32](#)

41 i.1 - [1 Kings 12:1](#)

42 i.1 - [Deuteronomy 11:29](#)

Lampros also purchased livestock in Shechem, grateful he had Jeremiah to go with him to inspect the livestock. He was surprised to see that Cyrus's purchases in Acco sold well in Shechem.

While having their evening meal, Lampros and Jeremiah discussed the best routes to Bethlehem.

The ridge route would be quicker; however, Lampros could sell his wares in other villages on the way to Jericho.

“Major caravans did not want to go out of their way to provide for the off-road bazaars. We will leave Shechem to go down the western bank of the Jordan River to Gilgal and finally to Jericho, camping at Fatsa’el, he explained.

“I would like to see where Joshua led our ancestors across the Jordan River on dry ground,” Jeremiah told him.

“Yes, we’ll camp at the site near where Joshua had twelve men bring up large stones from the dry riverbed to be a reminder for generations to come,”⁴³ Cyrus stated.

“That would be the first camp site of Israel after crossing the Jordan River,” Jeremiah responded, excitedly.

“I was worried about going to Jerusalem with just Ruth and baby Joel, but you came along at just the right time. Our journey has been a very pleasant one,” Jeremiah shared.

“When we get to Jericho, I will arrange for you to travel to Jerusalem with a small group of soldiers that are friends of mine. You will be able to travel the treacherous route without worry. We will be up leaving Gilgal for Jericho before the sunrise. Lampros said, departing for his tent.

Just before sunrise Lampros, Cyrus and a few helpers left the campsite and went to meet with the merchants. The rest of his crew were busy preparing the items to be sold in town.

Soon Ruth was up; Jeremiah put Joel on Simchah’s special saddle that one of Lampros’s men had made for the tiny lad.

43 i.1 - [Joshua 4:19-24](#)

He and Ruth walked with Simchah to Jacob's well.

Simchah was so funny, she seemed to enjoy carrying Joel, he liked the ride, and Simchah liked the companionship of young Joel.

"Kallisto told me about so many things that happened around this well and in Shechem" Ruth shared with her husband as they walked. "Hundreds of years ago, Alexander the Great destroyed the city of Shechem due to an uprising that resulted in his prefect⁴⁴ in Syria being burned to death. Many of Shechem's leading citizens hid in a nearby cave and were later captured and massacred by [Alexander's](#) forces.⁴⁵

"[Sanballat](#), an Horonite built a Temple on Mount Gerizim after [Nehemiah](#) banished the son of [Eliashib](#), the High Priest, from Jerusalem,⁴⁶ when he learned the man married an Ammonite woman, [Sennecarib's](#) daughter. **blatantly** breaking God's commandment."⁴⁷

Arriving back in camp, Jeremiah said, "We have a lot to learn about our history."

"That's right," Ruth responded. "It is very strange about these Samaritans. They claim to worship the one true God, but in their teaching, they do not accept the writings of His prophets or kings. They will not worship in Jerusalem, but rather worship on Mount Gerizim."

"We Greeks don't get it either," Lampros interjected. "I don't see the difference in what god or gods you believe in." He and Cyrus were packing the animals for the market in Fatsa' el.

"That, Lampros, is because you do not understand who the One True God is," Jeremiah said. Then he shared some scriptures that he had learned from his brother-in-law, Netanel.

44 i. 240 – [Webster's Dictionary 1828](#) - In ancient Rome, a chief magistrate who governed a city or province in the absence of the king, consuls or emperor.

45 Book 28 page 415 - Alexander's forces; [A History of Israel](#), John Bright; [The Westminster Press](#), Philadelphia 1959/1972

46 i.1 - [Nehemiah 13:28](#)

47 i.1 - [Deuteronomy 23:3](#)

*“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”*⁴⁸

No other god can claim this, either: *“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;”*⁴⁹

*“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”*⁵⁰

*Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”*⁵¹

Jeremiah continued, “Let me tell you a story about home-made gods: The carpenter measures his wood precisely and finishes his project of such quality that he will keep it in his house. He obtained the wood by cutting down a tree in the forest. He uses some of the wood for a fire to keep his house warm, some for his wife’s oven so she can fix a hot meal and then he takes some of the left-over wood and carves himself a graven image. When he has warmed himself by the fire, enjoyed a hot meal, he says “all is good, I am satisfied”, then he bows down before his graven image of wood and says: **“Deliver me; for thou art my god.”** He does not consider in his heart, nor does he understand that a warming fire, a hot meal that brought him satisfaction was possible because of the wood from the tree he cut down earlier, yet he continues to worship a remnant of that very same tree.⁵² Let me ask you a question, my friend, ‘Who made the tree?’⁵³

48 i.1 - [Genesis 1:1](#)

49 i.1 - [Isaiah 44:24](#)

50 i.1 - [John 1:3-4](#)

51 i.1 - [Isaiah 44:6](#)

52 i.1 - [Isaiah 44:12-17](#)

53 i.1 - [Genesis 1:11, 12](#)

“I have known you for many years, Jeremiah,” said Lambros, “and I have found you to be a righteous, fair and honest man. Now I can see why. You believe in a God who can and does change things. I have yet to see any of our gods do anything other than sit lifeless. Your words make a lot of sense, we must talk more, another time.”

“In the scroll of Genesis, the first words are: *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”*⁵⁴ Jeremiah continued. “Yes, Lampros, our God changes things! No other god can make such a claim.”

Lampros left to finish helping Cyrus with Wednesday’s inventory. “Abraham paused here,” Jeremiah told his remaining companions.

*“And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.”*⁵⁵

Jeremiah continued his conversation with Ruth, “Rabbi Tamir shared that with me just before we left Nazareth. I met Lampros at Nir’s orchards. It was my job to care for his caravan animals while he dealt with Nir buying produce. I was never raised to hate the Samaritans like some of the strict conservative Jews; I have issues with some of the laws of [Moses](#) and I am even embarrassed by a few of them.”⁵⁶

54 i.1 - [Genesis 1:1](#)

55 i.1 - [Genesis 12:6-8](#)

56 Book 28 page 419 – Embarrassed Jew, [A History of Israel](#), 1959/1972 John Bright; and [The Westminster John Knox Press](#).

“I understand,” Ruth commented. “I just wish I had faith like my sister Rebecca. She believes in God completely often remind of a proverb: **“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”**⁵⁷

Ruth began her food preparation while Jeremiah and Joel became the water boys, distributing water for those in the camp. As they rested from the day’s ride, the aroma of Ruth’s fabulous cooking drifted their way with the cool evening breeze.

Once the camp was set up, the only sound that could be heard was the grunting of the camels as their master had them kneel to remove their heavy loads. Joel enjoyed visiting with the caravan crew even though he was not old enough to speak intelligible words, but Jeremiah seemed to



Kneeling camels

Credit: i.249 - fineartamerica.com

understand the strange gibberish of a nearly two-year-old. He knew when Joel spoke; it was important to Joel.

The couple found it easy to make friends with the workers of the caravan and were very grateful when an elderly couple offered to babysit young Joel whenever needed. Joel learned the words for “grandfather” and “grandmother” quickly; and the elderly couple was thrilled to be called Saba and Savta.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ i.1 - [Proverbs 4:11](#)

⁵⁸ i.267 - Grandparents nicknames - [quora.com](#)

At sunset, Jeremiah was amazed how the extreme heat of noon dropped ⁵⁹ as darkness captured the sky.

The tranquility of such an awe inspiring, star-studded sky highlighted by the brilliance of a full moon was a memory he would rehearse for a long time.

Recalling what Jacob told Laban:

*“Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night;”*⁶⁰



Image by i.241 Grok

Grok

⁵⁹ Book 4 page 53 - Desert temperature changes [A Pilgrimage to Palestine](#), and Harry Emerson Fosdick, D.D.; [The MacMillan Company](#), New York, 1927.

⁶⁰ i.1 - [Genesis 31:40](#)

DAY 5 Thursday

Morning bazaar at Fats 'el, then off to Jericho, stopping at Gilgal.

Everyone ate an early breakfast. Cyrus took three men into the small bazaar in Fatsa' el and returned an hour later. He had a special order to deliver to one of the vendors.

Lampros had prepared everything for Friday's big day in Jericho; Jeremiah and Ruth were anxious to see Gilgal along the way and looking forward to meeting Caleb in Jerusalem.

Breaking camp while Cyrus was away, they were able to arrive in Gilgal seven hours later. Perhaps the excitement of their plans gave them a false concept of the temperatures, but they only stopped briefly for water at a small spring along the way.

Lampros was, however, glad to see Gilgal because he knew his camels and donkeys needed to rest from their heavy burdens.

“**Abraham** erected his first altar, it was “*beside the oaks of Moreh*,”⁶¹ Jeremiah told his companions. Another interesting point, the prophet Samuel “*went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.*”⁶²

As they began to eat their evening meal, a stranger approached. “Shalom,” he greeted them. Jeremiah replied. “Welcome. Are you hungry? Please join us.”⁶³

“I am Jeremiah this is my wife, Ruth; we are traveling to Bethlehem and camping at Gilgal then onto Jericho by nightfall.” Thank you, my name is **Nathaniel**.”

“Do you know the story about Jericho?” the stranger asked.

61 i.1 - [Genesis 12:6-8](#)

62 i.1 - [1 Samuel 7:16](#)

63 i.1 - [Zechariah 7:10](#)

Joshua fought a major battle, and God performed a miracle, “*and the wall fell down flat.*”⁶⁴ stated Jeremiah.

That's very true, Jeremiah,” Nathaniel said, “The story neither the starts nor ends there. At the area of Gilgal, you will see the pillar of twelve stones from the Jordan River because God had men from each tribe bring them from the dry riverbed as they crossed the Jordan River.



The 12 Stones of Remembrance
Credit i.254 - Crossroadsbible.net

This was the season when it overflowed its banks in flood stage.”

“That would have been very impressive!”
“ exclaimed Jeremiah.

“God has a reason for everything He does,”
Nathaniel continued, “the



Jordan River at flood stage
Credit: i.235 - Highlightfilms.LTD

stones were to be a constant reminder of the Jordan River crossing on dry land when God held back the flow of the river.”⁶⁵

64 i.1 - Joshua 6:20

65 i.1 - Joshua 3:15-17



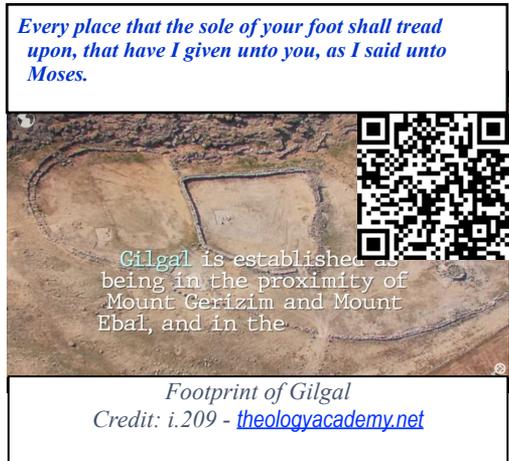
And the river Jordan backed up from the city of Adam and no water flowed down to the Salt Sea,⁶⁶ making it possible so that everyone crossed over on dry land

and last of all were the priests that carried the ark stepped onto the dry ground that was the dry flooded riverbed.

When everyone was safe on the western shore, ***“that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before,”***⁶⁷ flowing again to the Salt Sea.”

“That’s when they set up their camp in Gilgal?” Jeremiah questioned Nathaniel.

“Yes,⁶⁸” he replied. “The enclosure was in the shape of a footprint the shape of which is not directed by topography. There are about a half a dozen of these sandal-shaped enclosures in the Jordan Valley.⁶⁹”



66 l.1 - [Joshua 3:16](#)

67 i.1 - [Joshua 4:18](#)

68 i.1 - [Joshua 4:19](#)

69 i.209 - Why so many locations of, theologyacademy.net; and i.204 - holyland site.com

“In this foreign land,” Nathaniel responded, “God intended these His people, the Hebrews, to be identified as a separate people, by circumcision of every male.”⁷⁰



Camp Gilgal map
Credit: i.204 - [holylandsite](http://holylandsite.com)

Keeping their first Passover in the Promised Land was a most impressive celebration.

When they began to eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan the manna came no more.

Joshua felt very blessed here, his feet standing on the ground of the promised land, recalling what the Lord had said:

“Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.”⁷¹

What lay ahead for Joshua was a mighty task. Rising early that first morning in the promised land, he looked at the golden sun as it arose with a powerful glare on the surface of the Jordan River, it was as if God said to him:

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”⁷²

70 i.1 - [Joshua 5:4-9](#)

71 i.1 - [Joshua 1:3](#)

72 i.1 - [Psalm 1:1-3](#)

These words were like a dream in his head, praising God for the miracle of the day before, rejoicing that everyone that crossed the flooded Jordan River safely and came on dry ground. He turned his face towards Jericho to the south. It was not fear that overtook him; it was the great responsibility that lay ahead; the reality that he had the sandals of [Moses](#) to fill. By now the morning light was bright and Joshua could clearly see the impenetrable city of Jericho. He was amazed to see the city's gate shut.

“And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.”⁷³

“God gave him detailed instructions to accomplish the impossible and capture Jericho.

For six days, the men of war marched around the city wall in silence, then on the seventh day, the warriors were joined by the priests with their trumpets, and they silently marched around the city, this day, seven times; then the priests blew their trumpets.

The people in Jericho thought what a strange way these people wage war. They were surprised and overtaken ***“So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.”***⁷⁴

Nathaniel concluded.



Priests blow their trumpets
Credit: i.241 - [Grok](#)
[image](#)

73 i.1 - [Joshua 6:2](#)

74 i.1 - [Joshua 6:20](#)

“You left out an important part of the story,” There was a moment of silence, before Ruth continued, “the redeeming story of how [Rahab](#) and her family were spared from destruction.” Nathaniel replied, “Ruth, that story is for another time, as is the sin of [Achan](#). It is getting late and I must bid you a safe and blessed journey, and be on my way.”

“Farewell Nathaniel,” told him, “this has been a most enjoyable evening. When you can, visit us in Bethlehem, I will have unpacked my scroll of the battles in [Jezreel Valley](#).”

Ruth went to visit the ladies, disappointed, but respected Nathaniel’s need to journey on.

“Ruth,” Alexia said, “We are so glad that you and Jeremiah joined up with us. Our husbands are too; I heard them talking after supper, and Lampros said, Jeremiah is such a nice fellow, I met him years ago as I would buy produce from his employer, Nir, in Nazareth.”

Kallisto smilingly added what she had overheard Cyrus tell Lampros. “His wife, Ruth, can cook almost as well as my Kallisto,” Cyrus may have been afraid I would hear him. Ruth, you are a much better cook than I am.”

“Thank you.” she replied , her disappointment quickly vanished “My mother worked for a Roman Centurion and his family. She picked up quite a few cooking tips from the Italians. Since I will be managing the Café at the Bethlehem Inn, it is important that I learn to prepare foods from other countries.”

“In our travels, we meet many people from outside our culture,” assured Alexia. “In Jericho we will be meeting with [Akila](#), an Egyptian woman whose small caravan travels through Jerusalem on its way to Tyre from Egypt. She is a businesswoman you must meet.”

As the caravan passed Ramah, they reached the major crossroads that led to Caesarea and Damascus.

On the large hill just ahead, was Gebeah, King Saul's royal residence. From his house the King could look out to watch the caravans from Damascus traveling South toward Egypt and the Egyptians going northward. He had his eye on his kingdom; as commerce goes, so goes the country.

Arriving in Jericho, Lampros quietly planned with his soldier friends for Jeremiah, Ruth, and Joel to travel to Jerusalem providing protection through the thieving countryside from Jericho to Jerusalem. This would require another early morning departure to arrive in Jerusalem before the Sabbath would begin at sunset. The soldiers were accustomed to early departures and Ruth was glad it would be her last.

After meeting with their soldier guides, Jeremiah, Ruth, Alexia and Kallisto explored the various bazaars in Jericho.

"These bazaars are very different than the others we have seen," Jeremiah commented. "The booths seem smaller."

Ruth replied, "They are also more friendly, and they like to visit.

"Akila, our friend from Egypt, has a booth near," Alexis said.

"You'll find her to be the friendliest,"

"I am very excited to meet her," Ruth replied.

Stopping briefly at a few of the booths, they found Akila.

"Welcome to Jericho," she said excitedly, "Where's your little one?"

"She asked.

"Joel is staying with one of our guides. They have become instant friends", Ruth told her. "Do you set up a booth at every stop?"

"Oh, no, but the folks in Jericho have become family for me, so I stay a few extra days." Akila answered.

"I trade with several other caravans while I'm here, then like Lampros, I travel to the smaller areas not usually visited by the larger caravans.



“Jeremiah wandered off as the two ladies started swapping recipes. He was very interested in the care of corrals set up for the camels and horses, thinking their unique structure was what he would like to have had in the Bethlehem Stables. He quickly made some sketches before returning to Akila’s booth. He bought fresh oranges, potatoes, carrots, and a few ripe peaches. “This year, some fruits ripened a few weeks early. You’ll love them,” one of the shop owners told him. Arriving back at Akila’s booth, he shared the peaches with everyone.

“When I come through Bethlehem in September with my caravan, I’ll bring you some of Jericho’s famous Madjool dates, figs and some pomegranates, Akila explained.

“I look forward to seeing your caravan and the fresh produce would be wonderful,” Ruth replied. “I don’t know what the best harvest times at Bethlehem will be; but Jeremiah and I will put in a nice sized garden.”

“I return northward in February and will bring you some Egyptian leeks and onions,” Akila said.

“Your visits will be a welcome sight,” Ruth replied.

“We must be going, it will be dark soon and our camp is half an hour away,” Jeremiah informed the ladies that they must leave.

“I too must close up shop before dark” replied Akila. “I will see you in the fall.”

DAY 6 - FRIDAY - SHABBAT

Friday pre-dusk is the beginning of the Sabbath, Jeremiah, Ruth and Joel make an early start for Jerusalem with Roman soldiers; they meet with Caleb for Sabbath.

The sun was just peeking over the banks of the Jordan River and the grey light of dawn faintly lit up their campsite, the Roman soldiers arrived as escort for Jeremiah and family to Jerusalem.

Ruth was up early and had prepared a meal for their guides. While they ate, Jeremiah finished packing up their stuff. A couple of the soldiers helped Jeremiah, along with “helpful” Joel.

[Virgil](#), the Captain, was impressed with young Joel’s alertness at so early an hour and Joel found an excellent playmate in the tall soldier. “I have a son, back in Rome just a little older than your boy,” he explained his special interest in Joel.

“I imagine you miss him greatly,” Ruth said.

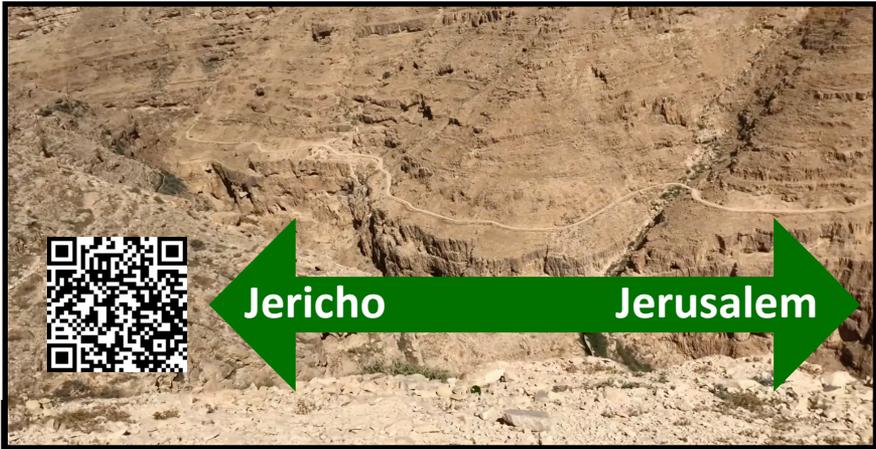
“Yes, next year, when I return from Jerusalem, I report back to Rome and will be with my family. My younger brother, [Lucius](#), will be taking my place in Sepphoris.”

“He will be stationed at the fortress there?” she asked.

“Yes,” Virgil replied, then quickly changed the subject from a military conversation to talking with Joel again. The wise military leader sensed that Joel understood what was being said, “Look, Joel, the light of dawn has changed and now the hills look tan again.”

The little one grinned and pointed toward the hillsides as the sun cast moving shadows over the ground.





The road from Jericho to Jerusalem
Credit: i.140 - [Sergio and Rhoda in Israel \(youtube video\)](#)

The Captain smiled and replied with an imaginary translation.

“You’re quite right, my young friend. The hills will all be brown, and the sun will come out in all its warmth and glory.”

Joel said something in response, no one seemed to understand, except perhaps Joel. We’re ready,” Jeremiah announced.

The multitude of hugs and goodbyes of the caravanners was brief as the soldiers quickly mounted up and were ready to travel.

Turning to the couple, Virgil informed them, “We have about 20 miles to travel Southwesterly up toward Jerusalem, through tough terrain. It is a fearful wilderness and is full of robbers.”

Ruth commented, “I believe you and your soldiers will get us through safely.”

“That’s right.” Virgil replied. “The bad guys are not going to mess with Roman soldiers.”

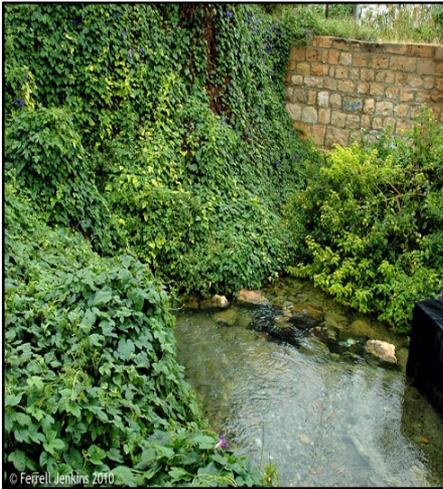
With the morning sunup and in its full brightness, Jeremiah looked back down toward Jericho, and said, “Jericho is as fertile as an Oasis in the desert.”⁷⁵

Virgil added, ”The city of palms has beautiful vegetation and survived because the bitter spring flowing so abundantly was converted with salt⁷⁶ to fresh water, if you can believe that!”

⁷⁵ i.66 – Jericho is an Oasis - [Bible Hub](#)

⁷⁶ i.1 – [2 Kings 2:19-22](#)

“Amazing!” exclaimed Jeremiah, “Now I remember Rabbi Tamir talking how Elisha prayed and then asked for a jar of salt, that he poured into the spring. “And he went forth unto the



© Ferrell Jenkins 2010

Elisha's Fountain at Jericho
Credit: i.252 - [Ferrell Jenkins](#).

spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land.”⁷⁷

Jeremiah and Ruth rode on Simchah’s back and Joel was happy to share a horse with the Captain.

This was Joel’s first ride on a horse; he enjoyed riding on Simchah, but the horse had more “ups and downs.”

Although Ruth found the

Jericho Road to be exhausting, she felt safer with the soldiers leading the way. She took special interest in visiting with the young Captain, Virgil. She learned his mother worked in Rome in Caesar's kitchen, and he shared several of his favorite recipes with her. Ruth promised him a home cooked meal if he would visit them the next time he is in Bethlehem.

“Of course,” he told her with a grin, “Mom’s cooking is the best.”

“I will fix your mother's recipe for SHAKSHUKA⁷⁸ when you come,” Ruth encouraged him to visit.

“Another breakfast special she makes is one the palace guards love,” he told her, I don’t know if it is an Israeli specialty. Mom called it *UOVA E POLLO*.”

⁷⁷ i.1 – [2 Kings 2:21](#)

⁷⁸ i.76 - Shakshuka recipe, [egglandsbest.com](#)

“What does that mean?” she asked Virgil.

He smiled and said, “Eggs and chicken.”

Ruth laughed, “I would never see the connection.”

On and on they talked about food, which caused Ruth to be less tense about the treacherous trek to Jerusalem and Virgil’s men kept a watchful eye on the countryside.

Pausing in the shade of olive trees near a small spring, the travelers rested for a while, enjoying the distant view of Jerusalem’s skyline in the light of pre-dusk. All the buildings had an orange glow about them as the bright sunlight reflected from them.

“How magnificent a view,” declared Jeremiah. “Another memory I will cherish,” he thought to himself.

“We have seen the city often in the evening,” said Virgil “and the city seems to light up on its own. We will arrive at the Jerusalem Inn well before dark, but we must be up and going right away.”

Time passed quickly as every step took them closer to Jerusalem.



Sunset over Jerusalem - Credit: i.204 - holylandsite.com

The well-guarded family gained new energy when they saw the Sheep Gate,⁷⁹ located on the eastern wall of the city, and as they neared the gate, a brief rainfall welcomed them.

“Does it rain often in Jerusalem?” asked Jeremiah.

“More than in Jericho,” replied Virgil. “Jericho averages less than an inch of rain in March, but Jerusalem gets an average of nearly 2 inches.”⁸⁰ Rain in Israel can be divided into two main periods. The first is the early rain ... in the autumn, and the second is the latter rain ... in the spring.”⁸¹

Arriving at Chacham’s Inn, Kalanit, Caleb’s sister, greeted the soldiers and invited the soldiers to a refreshing meal while resting their horses.

“We must report in the centurion headquarters, which is now our first priority.” Virgil explained. He promised to visit Jeremiah and Ruth in Bethlehem as soon as possible.

He turned his attention to young Joel, and told him goodbye,

“*Arrivederci.*” he said to all as they rode away.

“Kalanit has prepared a special Shabbat⁸² meal for you, that we may welcome the Sabbath.” Caleb welcomed them.

Ruth was pleased to see the perfectly baked Challah, cucumber & tomato salad, and Bubbi’s Matza Ball soup. Kalanit explained that she made it from her grandmother’s recipe.⁸³

Jeremiah, however, set his eyes on the sliced lamb in apricot mushroom sauce,⁸⁴ and delicious apple-crumble.⁸⁵



Matza Ball soup
Credit: i.207 –
Allrecipes.com

79 i.223 - some folks called it the “Jericho” gate because the road from Jericho the passed right by it, jerusalemstory.com

80 i.132 – Rainfall in Jerusalem vs Jericho, weather-and-climate.com/

81 i.253 – Early/late rains, shalom-jerusalem.com/

82 i.50 - Shabbat dinner recipe, chabad.org

83 i.207 - Matzo Ball Soup recipes, allrecipes.com

84 i.50 - Sliced Lamb, chabad.org

85 i.50 - Apple Crumble, chabad.org

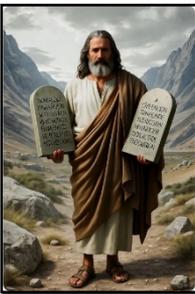
Kalanit, the lady of the house, had the candles lit before sunset, the beginning of the Sabbath. She explained to the surprised couple that Caleb was a Shomer Shabbat, a religious Jew.

Kalanit sat with Ruth and Joel and began sharing the origin of the Shabbat to the nearly two-year-old as if he was a member in her synagogue class of young children. The toddler listened intently, almost as if he understood what Kalanit was saying.

“We have read in the scrolls that God created the world in six days. And on the seventh day, He rested and sanctified it, that it should be a holy day. No unnecessary work would be done. Food for the Shabbat would be prepared the day before.”

Caleb continued before reading from the scroll:

“When Moses came down from Mt. Sinai, he brought God’s ten commandments to the Hebrews and shared the words of God:



Moses with the
Ten
Commandments
Credit: i.241 [Grok](#)

“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.”⁸⁶

“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”⁸⁷

86 i.1 - [Exodus 20:7-11](#)

87 i.1 - [Exodus 20:2, 3](#)

“That is why we celebrate the creation of the world and God’s divine intervention when his people were enslaved by the cruel Egyptian Pharaoh,” Caleb explained. “The holy scriptures teach us:

“If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”⁸⁸

“We light the candles Friday afternoon and place them near where our evening meal will be eaten, so that our Shabbat would begin peaceful and be festive; and we pray a special prayer known as Kaddush, which means sanctification.”

Noticing young Joel had fallen asleep on his mother’s lap, Kalanit rose to place a soft pillow by Ruth to lay him down.

“And now,” she continued, “we are ready to begin our celebration feast of Shabbat. Caleb and Jeremiah came in, and Caleb explained that at the Friday meal, they would share two large loaves of bread, which represent the double portion of manna that God sent on every Friday.

Sunday through Thursday, God sent one day’s portion during the years the Hebrews wandered in the wilderness.⁸⁹

Ruth saw there were three meals in the kitchen.

Kalanit explained, “One we would share on Friday at the beginning of the Sabbath and another large meal for the Shabbat tomorrow and a smaller one for later in the day. We begin with the ceremony of hand washing.”

⁸⁸ i.1 - [Isaiah 58:13 & 14](#)

⁸⁹ i.1 - [Exodus 16:4, 5](#)

After saying the Kaddush, they began dining on the great feast, eating first the two loaves of Challah.⁹⁰

“A typical Shabbat meal may include, chicken soup, kugels, or whatever is a delicious and festive food like bean stew, barley, potatoes, and the meat, cholent.



Challah Bread

Credit-i.215

Photo by [Rob Kaufman](#)

This will vary based on the ancestry of the host,” Caleb explained.

They both were thankful that Kalanit served fresh grape juice in place of wine. Later they learned that wine was never served at Jerusalem and Bethlehem Inns.

“After we eat, we will be sharing what God has done for us this past week because in the scroll of Leviticus we are told it is *“the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation.”*⁹¹

“[Isaiah](#) defined true sabbath-keeping as turning from one’s own ways and own pleasures, and taking delight in the Lord.”⁹²

“We have learned so much about our history,” Jeremiah said.

After little Joel went to sleep the foursome shared their stories.

Caleb spoke out first, “My great, great grandfather purchased the inn and stables in Bethlehem because the previous owner had no living relatives to pass it to. It has been in our family ever since. My great grandfather leased the shepherd's field where the shepherds raise their special lambs for Temple sacrifices.”

Kalanit joined in next, “Our father, Chacham, was able to buy the Inn at Jerusalem, it needed a lot of work, but he was able to do most of the repairs himself. I left Bethlehem to help him and mother in Jerusalem. Mama passed away five years later, and two years ago, Papa joined her.”

⁹⁰ i.207 - Challah recipe, [allrecipes.com](#)

⁹¹ i.1 - [Leviticus 23:3](#)

⁹² i.1 - [Isaiah 58:13, 14](#)

After mother died, I helped Father with the inn until his death.”

“After Father died, “Caleb spoke up, “I moved to the Jerusalem Inn and stayed with my sister. That was when I hired an assistant and a cook for the Bethlehem Inn. Three months ago, his wife resigned when my assistant accepted the position to manage a stable in Bethphage. I checked with Uncle Nir to help me find replacements, because I found no one in this area with competent skills and similar mindset as myself to replace him.”

“That's where I came in,” Jeremiah spoke up. “Nir hired me to work in the orchards, but he quickly observed my natural talent was with the animals. He transferred me to the stables. I had the privilege of working under Antigonous, the head stable master. He was Greek and came from a family who trained horses.”

“How long did you work for Nir?” Caleb asked.

“I started at age seventeen, eight years later Ruth and I were married. So, a little over ten years,” Jeremiah replied. “Ruth has been a great supporter for me ever since.”

“You have such a beautiful son,” Kalanit commented.

“Thank you,” said Ruth. “He is the joy of our lives , although he does have a mind of his own. Just like his father, he wants to help others.”

“That is a very good thing,” Kalanit responded.

Smiling, Ruth said, “Joel can slow us down a lot when we’re loading the donkeys, but we’re patient with him; his intentions are good.”

Changing the subject, Ruth asked “So, do you have a fellow on the hook yet?”

“No, the Inn here has consumed all my time,” Kalanit replied.

“In Jericho, we met [Danael](#), a young Hebrew man who owns a small caravan; he will visit us next month,” Ruth hinted.

“Ruth, I don’t have time for anything outside of the Inn,” Kalanit said firmly.

“Now that we’re in Bethlehem,” Ruth replied, with a twinkle in her eyes. “Caleb can help you and you will be able to widen your horizons!”

Blushing a bit, Kalanit said “Let’s get back to business. Jeremiah was bragging about your cooking; Ruth, please share with us some of your kitchen adventures” Caleb requested.

“My grandmother and two of my aunts would fix tremendous meals and I grew up more in a kitchen than anywhere else. My family did not follow the strict dietary laws of kosher Jews, so foreign foods, especially Egyptian and Italian fascinated me. A long our way, at the bazaars, I picked up a few recipes from China and India. I think the foreign meals will entice caravan masters to come to the Cafe and stay at the inn.

“What a marvelous idea.” said Kalanit.

“If it works,” replied Ruth, “You might be able to use some of the recipes here in Jerusalem. I’ll share some of the spices Akl brought from Egypt. They are exceptional.”

“We should be getting some sleep,” mentioned Caleb when he noticed Jeremiah could barely keep his eyes open. “I am sure you are tired from your uphill climb from Jericho.”

There was absolutely no disagreement from the weary Nazareth couple.

“We are looking forward to celebrating Shabbat in Jerusalem,” Jeremiah shared.

“Many things about Judaism we have learned on this journey,” she replied, “we met so many strangers that know more about our faith than we do,” Ruth commented.

“Tomorrow, we will learn even more,” her husband agreed.

DAY 7 Shabbat in Jerusalem

Attending Services in the Temple

The Eastern skyline was lit up from the awesome sunrise when Jeremiah awoke.

“My first Shabbat in Jerusalem,” he thought.

“Ruth,” he said to his wife who was up and around before him, “I am so glad we have Caleb and Kalanit to work with. They are more spiritual people than we have ever been around.”

“We can certainly learn a lot from their example about our God.”

She modeled Kalanit’s beautiful prayer shawl that she loaned her. “It’s absolutely beautiful,” Ruth commented.

The men donned their kippahs⁹³ As they left for the temple.

As the group began their walk to the temple; each layered in a light, but warm wrap.

“Caleb told me last night what we should expect at the temple today.” Jeremiah shared with his wife, “I’m looking forward to seeing how different worshipping in the temple will be.”

Soon the foursome and Joel could see the Temple.

“What a spectacular view,” Jeremiah exclaimed when he saw the warm golden light of the early dawn shine on the temple.

Continuing south/southeast Caleb pointed out the three towers of Herod in the distance on their right.

“South of them you can see Herod’s fortress and his palace just beyond that, we’ll go to the east side of the temple and enter the outermost court, known as the Court of the Gentiles,”⁹⁴ he told the visiting couple.

Jeremiah noticed many sick and poor people in that courtyard.

“Are they here often?” he asked.

93 i.215 - head covering, [Jewish Learning Institute \(YouTube video, edited\)](#)

94 i.123 – Court of Gentiles, [Biblestudy.org](#)

“Yes,” Caleb replied, “they come seeking help.”⁹⁵

Making their way southwesterly they passed by the dividing wall.



Temple Warning Sign

Credit: i.226 - holylanphotos.org

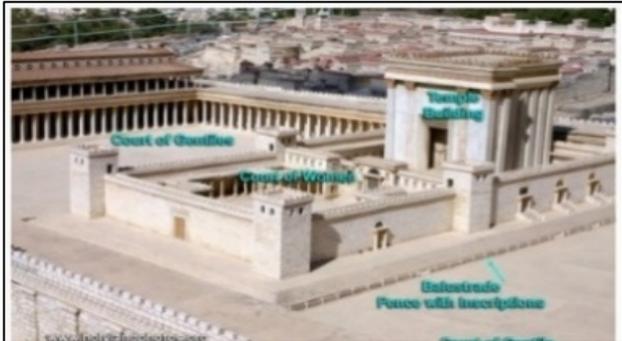
That's the soreg.” Caleb answered the unasked question of Jeremiah. “It separates the Court of the Gentiles from the rest of the Temple Mount complex, preventing the unclean Israelites and Gentiles from entering.”

He pointed out a sign on the balustrade. Because it was written in Greek, he read it for Jeremiah: ⁹⁶

“No foreigner may enter within the balustrade around the sanctuary and the enclosure. Whoever is caught, on himself, shall he put blame for the death, which will ensue.”

Approaching

another outer court, the Court of the Women, they passed through the Gate of the Women.



Court of the Gentiles

Credit: i.226 - holylanphotos.org

“Here is where the women and Joel will

worship in the temple; the men enter one court closer toward the Holy of Holies, where only the high priest is allowed to enter.” Caleb explained.

“What a beautiful brass gate, it is so huge, I imagine it is very hard to open.” Ruth commented.

⁹⁵ i.123 – Sick and poor people, biblestudy.org

⁹⁶ i.226 – Warning sign, timesofisrael.com

“That’s because it is made with Corinthian brass and is richly ornamented,” Kalanit explained. “The doors of the gate are so massive it took the strength of twenty men to open it.”⁹⁷

The men left the ladies and headed toward the Court of the Israelites when they heard the rhythmic singing of the Levites; some priests were standing on the three steps called “Dukan.”

“The priests would stand here to bless the people,” Caleb said.

Jeremiah was excited to see how different Shabbat was celebrated in the temple services versus the few he did attend at the Nazareth synagogue. The service included a Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration (a coming-of-age ceremony for Jewish boys and girls when they reach the age of 12 or 13.)⁹⁸; readings from the Torah, a portion from Haflarah (prophetic) portion; and a D’Var Torah (Torah interpretation).

After the service ended, Caleb and Jeremiah met the ladies in the Women’s Court where the Nazareth couple were introduced to many of Caleb and Kalanit’s friends. As the crowd cleared away, they walked back to the inn for the Saturday meal. The ladies sang almost all the way back while Caleb and Jeremiah discussed the grandeur of the temple.

Caleb led in prayer for a blessing on those present and a special request for young Joel that he might follow the examples of the prophets [Elijah](#) and Elisha and as he grows older be strong in his determination to honor God. The foursome joined hands as Caleb asked God’s blessings on the evening meal, to sanctify the food and to bring honor to the One True God, the Father of the coming Messiah. When they had finished eating, Caleb read the Parsha⁹⁹ from the Torah:

97 i.123 – gate for the Women’s Court, [Biblestudy.org](#)

98 i.164 - Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration, [Jewish Museum London](#)

99 i.50 – that is read on a particular Shabbat, [Portion of the Torah](#)

Genesis 2:2-3

“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. -And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”

Prophetic – {[Isaiah 9:6](#)}¹⁰⁰

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Interpretation of Torah – {[Micah 5:2](#)}¹⁰¹

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

Taking leave of the Sabbath after sunset; Caleb closes with a reading from {[Psalms 111:1-4](#)}¹⁰²

“Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.”

91 i.1 - [Isaiah 9:6](#)

101 i.1 - [Micah 5:2](#)

102 i.1 - [Psalm 111:1-4](#)

“I’m very impressed by the ceremonial way you honor Shabbat,” said Jeremiah as he realized there is more to worshipping God on the Sabbath than not working. “Ruth and I usually spent the Sabbath by camping and enjoying the beauty of God’s creation. We would set up our camp on the highest hill west of Nazareth where we could see the grandeur sunsets over the dome-shaped, snow-covered Mt. Hermon. We really felt closer to God. **“Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.”**¹⁰³ Caleb quoted the prophet Jeremiah, then he added “While you enjoyed the pleasures of what God created, you were missing the important part of honoring the Shabbat and keeping it holy. We should worship the Creator, not His creations.

“We thought we were, by not working. I remembered the words from Moses that our rabbi repeated:

“Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death.”¹⁰⁴

Caleb smiled, “I can only imagine you would work hard the six days before the Sabbath and then, when your campsite is setup, you spend the Sabbath exhausted and in need of rest.”

“The Lord our God, our creator, did not rest on the seventh day because he was tired; [Isaiah](#) gives us insight into the strength and endurance of God, **“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.”**¹⁰⁵

103 i.1 - [Jeremiah 3:23](#)

104 i.1 - [Exodus 35:2](#)

105 i.1 - [Isaiah 40:28](#)

“You will be better prepared for keeping the Lord’s Day holy if you regulate your activities and daily workload so that you get adequate rest for the next day’s labor. Then, on the Sabbath, you are mentally and physically able to honor God and keep His Sabbath holy and enjoy His fellowship with you.”

“This also proves your faith that God provides your daily needs,” Kalanit said.

“I can see that we honored the Sabbath out of habit. Thank you! We were a lot more casual in Nazareth,” Jeremiah said.

DAY 8 Sunday

Tour Jerusalem and then Leave for Bethlehem

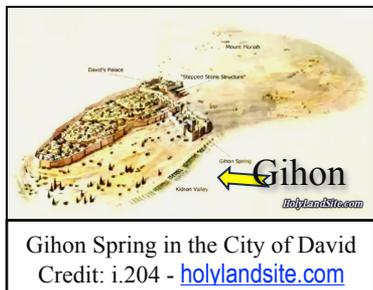
In the morning, Kalanit and Ruth prepared a breakfast of scrambled eggs, walnuts-tomato paste, feta cheese crusted with herbs, tahini, jam, butter, and salad. A side dish of Ratzelech.¹⁰⁶

Ruth was excited to see that Kalanit was an excellent cook and looked forward to working with her.

Jerusalem was a very busy city, so Jeremiah and Ruth appreciated Caleb being their guide while Kalanit managed Joel.

Caleb took them southeast of the Temple to the Gihon Spring.

“This spring is the most important of the two springs that supply water for Jerusalem,” Caleb shared.



“As you can see, the spring is located just outside the wall of the city.’

Nearly 1000 years ago,

King David, it seems,

sent his troops into an old cave like tunnel that went from the Gihon Spring underneath the city wall into Jerusalem, and he was able to conquer the city from the Jebusites.¹⁰⁷



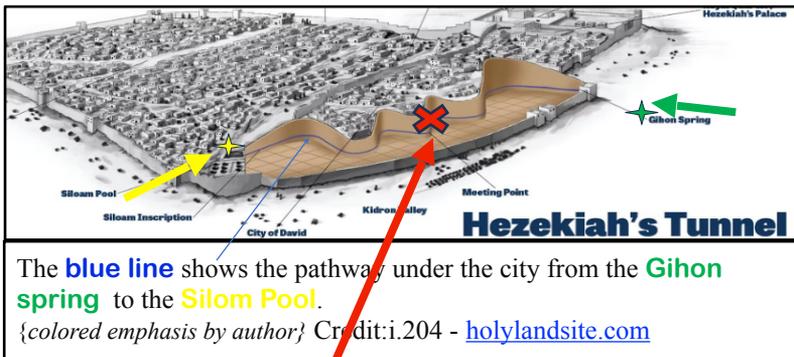
106 i.207 - Potato Pancakes, allrecipes.com

107 i.1 - [2 Samuel 5:7](http://2Samuel57)

Years later, on his deathbed, the king declared his son Solomon to be the king and commanded **Nathan** the prophet to anoint his son King at the Gihon Spring. ¹⁰⁸

About 300 years later another attack fell upon Jerusalem under King **Hezekiah**. The evil Assyrian **Sennacherib**, king of Syria, came “*up against all the fenced cities of Judah and took them and then he came for Jerusalem.*”¹⁰⁹

To assure enough water for the residents, a new water system was needed for safer transporting of the Gihon water into the city,¹¹⁰ Hezekiah ordered a tunnel from Gihon Spring to inside the city. His ingenious workers had two starting points, this spring, and the ending spot inside the walls. The two crews did meet about halfway, which made Hezekiah tunnel unique in tunnels!¹¹¹



108 i.1 – [1 Kings 1:33-45](#)

109 i.1 – [2 Kings 18:1](#)

110 i.1 — conduit: "an aqueduct from the pool or reservoir for the supply of the city. At the foot of Zion was Fount Shiloah (Isa 8:6; Nehemiah 3:15; John 9:7), called also Gihon, on the west of Jerusalem (2 Ch 32:30)." [Isaiah 7:3](#)

111 i.1 – [2 Kings 20:20](#)

The king prayed to the One True God and the prophet Isaiah told the king God heard his prayer. In His words, God said Sennacherib, “... *shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.*

And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.”¹¹²

Their next stop was west of the spring to see Herod’s Theater. “About 20 years ago,” Caleb explained, “[Herod](#) built a theater here, introducing more of the Greco-Roman culture. Wealthy Jews come here, but our more traditional Jews scorn it.¹¹³

Further west of us you can see the three heavily fortified towers Herod also built, protecting his palace and the western side of Jerusalem. The tallest one is called The Phasael Tower, named after Herod’s brother and is 145 feet tall; the middle one shorter, it is 132 feet tall, and he named it after a friend; but the most beautiful one is the Mariamme¹¹⁴ Tower, named after his Hasmonean wife, that he murdered nearly 30 years ago. The Mariamme tower is only 74 feet tall.”¹¹⁵

“King Herod really killed a lot of his family, didn’t he?” asked Jeremiah.

112 i.1 – 2 Kings 19:32-37

113 i.13 - Herod’s Theater, bible-history.com

114 i.96 – Mariamme, Jewish women’s archive, jwa.org {Jewish Women’s Archive}

115 i.13 – Herod’s three towers, bible-history.com

“Yes,” Caleb sadly agreed. “ He is a very paranoid and jealous king. But I must remember King Solomon’s wisdom when he stated in the scrolls of the Proverbs: **“Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.”**¹¹⁶

“One more thing,” Kalanit said with a grin. “Let’s go shopping!” She and Ruth quickly disappeared into the crowd in the huge Jerusalem bazaar.”



Jerusalem Street Bazaar
Credit: i.204 - holylandsite.com

“This is so much bigger than any we have seen on our journey here,” Ruth told her.

“You’ll find everything you need for the Inn and Café in this bazaar. You will come often!” exclaimed Kalanit.

Soon the men, along with excited Joel, caught up with the ladies. Kalanit had introduced Ruth to several salespeople who would provide her with supplies for the Bethlehem Café. The men headed toward the livestock, after agreeing with the ladies to meet in an hour at Zion Gate leading toward Bethlehem.

116 i.1 – [Solomon’s wisdom](#)

As they headed toward the animal area, Caleb asked if Jeremiah was familiar with all the gates around the city walls.

“Not really, other than Nehemiah was in charge.” He replied.

‘Let me share a little about Nehemiah. Nehemiah was just a young lad when his rabbi told him the story about dedicating his whole life to live for God and what that meant.

The story goes along this line that God is in the construction business and has made it clear to his workforce that He is not looking for better men but making men better and He would provide you with directions and show you a path¹¹⁷ to follow.

Remember, with the guidance of God, the Creator of heaven and earth directing your life, you will accomplish the greatest of things. It as if God is pushing a wheelbarrow through life and you, Nehemiah, would be the passenger: You put both feet into God's wheelbarrow and let him direct your path 100% by prayer first then by faith and you will see the victory.

He did grow up to become the cup bearer, a very important job, working so close to King [Artaxerxes](#).

One day his brothers came from the ruins of Jerusalem and the Temple to tell him of the plight of the city of Jerusalem.

God laid a lot of conviction on Nehemiah to do something about it so first of all he prayed about it for 4 months and by faith, asked the King's permission to go and help repair and protect both his Jewish heritage and the families in the Holy City; to rebuild the walls and rebuild the city's numerous gates.¹¹⁸

Nehemiah could have lost his life if the King would have said “*Off with his head! I'm not going to put up with this nonsense!*”

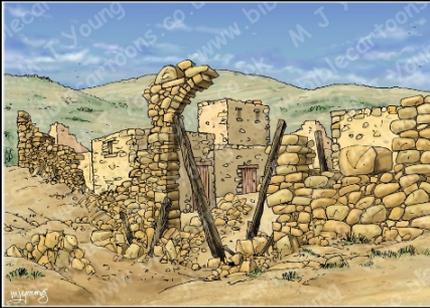
God answered Nehemiah's prayer and the King sent him with his royal blessings and letters of safe passage along with permission to harvest all the lumber he would need from the Royal Forest.”

117 i.1 – [Psalm 119:105](#)

118 i.1 – [Nehemiah 1:4–2:10](#)

“That is amazing,” said Jeremiah. “And we think we were doing God’s will for our lives by accomplishing what we do. The heroes of our faith have certainly set challenging examples of following God’s direction.”

“Quite right, my friend,” Caleb told him. “Let me share with you about the rebuilding of the gates around Jerusalem that one man under God’s leadership accomplished.



The Sheep Gate in need of repair
Credit: i.263 - [Bible Cartoons](#)

“Here at the animal sales area is the **Sheep Gate**,” Caleb began.

“This was rebuilt by the High Priest, Eliashib, along with other priests, they sanctified it and set up the doors. They also built the north wall from the tower of Meah (100) to the tower of Hananeel (Tower of God’s Favor) and which was west. This

tower is mentioned in Jeremiah’s prophecy¹¹⁹ about the future restoration and preservation of Jerusalem near the Pool of Bethesda.

It was Nehemiah's first project as this was the gate used to bring into the Temple the sacrificial animals, especially the sheep, to be purified in the pools of purification.

Next is the **Fish Gate**, in the northwest corner of the wall where merchants brought their fish from the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. It was rebuilt by Hassenah’s sons. They also replaced the beams, doors and locks.

The **Old (Jeshanah¹²⁰) Gate** is in the northwest section of the North Wall.

119 i.1 – [Jeremiah 31:28-40](#)

120 i.71 – Jeshanah which means “of the old” or possibly “the gate of the new quarter” – [gotquestions.org](#); and i.153 - [biblestudytools.com](#)

The **Valley Gate** leads to the Hinnon Valley and is the one Nehemiah went out at night to inspect the walls. It is in the middle of the south section of the west wall and was repaired by Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah. They set up the doors and the locks for it as well as 1,000 cubits of wall down to the next gate.

Next is the **Dung Gate** in the southwest corner of the west wall and was repaired by Malchiah son of the ruler of Bethaccerem. He and his crew built it, set up the doors and the bars. Used for funerals and the removal of any necessary waste to be burned.

The **Fountain Gate** located at the south end of the eastern wall was repaired by Shallun, son of a ruler from a part of Mizpah; he rebuilt it, covered it, set up the doors and locks as well as the wall of the pool of Siloah and even the stairs that go down to the city of David. This gate was vital for city water supply.

The **Water Gate**, located to the north, led to another crucial water resource and it was here during the time when Nehemiah oversaw the rebuilding, that the older prophet, [Ezra](#), read the law to the people.¹²¹

The **Horse Gate** was repaired by the priests and all who had their houses north of the Horse Gate, each repaired their own section.

Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the **East Gate** repaired it and the section by his house. There is no confusion about the Golden Gate which leads into temple; the Eastgate is a city gate leading into the city, not the temple.

The **Miphkad Gate** the goldsmiths repaired this one; {it was also known as the Inspection Gate}, up to the Sheep gate.

“I have heard” Caleb continued, “that the Romans would muster and inspect their troops at this area and the Jews used it for census for official reviewing or registering of our people.

121 i.1 - [Nehemiah 8:1-6](#)

Some associate it with the gate where the red heifer ceremonies begin. It's getting late, so we'll talk about the red heifer another day; it is very crucial to our beliefs."

Caleb went back in history nearly 1000 years to discussing history.

"Prior to Isaiah coming on the scene the Jews aligned more with God's promise to David regarding a ruling King from his lineage forever, and to be the great peacekeeper rather than OBEY the strict laws by Moses.

"They had ears but did not hear" God told Solomon.¹²²

Judah was spiritually in trouble; preceded by 150 years when the Northern Kingdom was taken by the Assyrians. The visible trouble had its roots in spiritual disobedience to the One True God. They disobeyed him after he made it very clear that *"none should go unpunished"*.¹²³

Judah was later taken by Babylon; Jerusalem inhabitants were held captive for 70 years. The Temple and Jerusalem burned and destroyed while the neighboring Edomites watched and chanted *"Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof"*.¹²⁴

Nehemiah was born in Babylon and was God's chosen man to rebuild the walls Jerusalem after God's judgment ended.

His parents and Rabbinical teachings helped form his total devotion to God." Caleb continued, "his spiritual upbringing taught him pray first, then work. This was a driving force in the young man that would, through God's guidance, bring the chaotic community to work together; helping it to repair regain its morals and find its new direction to hold the Hebrew people together, which was necessary if Israel were to survive as an entity."¹²⁵

122 i.1- [1st Kings 9:1-9](#)

123 i.1 - [Proverbs 11:21](#); [Jeremiah 25:29](#); [30:11](#)

124 i.1 - [Nehemiah 4: 13](#)

125 - Book 28 page 380 - [A History of Israel 1959/1972 John Bright](#); and [The Westminster John Knox Press](#).

“His biggest problem was to provide physical security; therefore rebuilding the walls and gates were his top priority. The necessary work was completed in only 52 days, *“a tribute to the Nehemiah’s energy and courage, and the determination of the bulk of the people.”*¹²⁶

He faced unmerciful antagonism from the Samaritan leadership, Sanballat, Governor of Samaria, accompanied by a related kinsman, **Tobia**, his name means God is good, his character bore no resemblance to a gracious God, both men projected evil and blatant disobedience for God’s laws. These two had another evil partner an Arab leader named **Geshem**. He was a powerful chieftain in northwestern Arabia.

Nehemiah had enemies on all sides and spies inside the Jewish compound.

First they mocked him, and failed to sway him; then they harassed him with raids, and Nehemiah stopped the violence through unique military tactics.¹²⁷

They even tried to lure him from the city with the intent of murdering him, not negotiating a proposed peace. But he was onto them and replied: *“I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?”*¹²⁸

Every assault failed, including a false accusation of sedition against Persia.¹²⁹; inside the walls he had spies related to Sanballat.¹³⁰

126 - [Nehemiah 3: 4:6](#); and Book 28 page 383 – [A History of Israel](#) 1959/1972 John Bright; and [The Westminster John Knox Press](#).

127 i.1 - [Nehemiah 4:13-23](#)

128 i.1 - [Nehemiah 6:3](#)

129 i.1 - [Nehemiah 6:5-14](#)

130 i.1 - [Nehemiah 6:7-19](#)

Their taunting of Nehemiah included sending progress reports to King Sennacherib to trying to get extreme fear in Nehemiah's heart that his life was in danger; this could have caused him to violate a temple law, but he knew when God is on your side and you are on his side God, will always win!¹³¹

Because of heavy taxes and poor harvests,¹³² the community was extremely financially stressed. Greedy men dispossessed the poor, taking their property for collateral in exchange for food or money to pay their taxes or mortgages. Nehemiah was very angry and pulled the bad guys into a public meeting and made them swear before the priest to make things right.

Something still was lacking. He knew that a complete religious reformation was needed, something that he, a layman, could not accomplish. He returned from a trip to Babylon only to find the conditions far worse than when he had left. The High Priest put Nehemiah's enemy into a fancy chamber of the Temple.¹³³ It was reserved for priestly duties. Immediately, he had Tobiah's stuff put out on the street and ordered the area cleaned and purified, restoring it to its ceremonial function¹³⁴ He corrected several other wrongs and brought the Jewish structure of Moses' law back into play, as best as he could.

That's when God sent his number two man, Ezra, an older prophet, who took a four-month 800-mile trip from Babylon to the destroyed city of Jerusalem. Not wanting King Artaxerxes to think the God of the Hebrews would not be able to protect them, he did not ask for any military accompaniment. So he called a fast and prayed and God honored and endorsed his travels.¹³⁵

131 i.1 - [Nehemiah 6:10-14](#)

132 i.1 - [Nehemiah 5:1-5; 15](#)

133 i.1 - [Nehemiah 3:1; 13:28](#)

134 i.1 - [Nehemiah 13:4-9](#)

135 i.1 - [Ezra 8:21,22](#) and i.66 - [Bible Hub](#)

Ezra quickly proved his spiritual leadership and read the law of God at the meeting place at the Water Gate. God brought down heavy conviction on the people, and they repented of their sins.¹³⁶

Mixed marriages, Jews marrying non-Jews was a major crisis that he addressed with no uncertain terms.¹³⁷ The Israelites were forbidden to marry outside of Abraham’s ancestry.¹³⁸ because it would result in that family denying God and turn to idols.

Revival had come to Jerusalem.”

“We certainly owe a lot to those two men of God “exclaimed Jeremiah.

“Absolutely “Caleb said as they met up with the ladies at the Zion Gate.

“Tomorrow, Jeremiah beamed, “it is off to Bethlehem.

Joel had kept the men busy as he randomly wanted to check out all the baby lambs.



Fascinating little lambs
Credit:i.257 Canva.com

He was finally enticed to leave the little critters when Jeremiah offered him a ride on Simchah.

136 i.1 – [Ezra 7:25, 26](#)

137 i.1 - [Ezra 9](#); and [10](#)

138 i.1 - [Deuteronomy 7:1-4](#)

Joel “helped” the men load the ladies purchases on Simchah, being sure to save a spot for Joel.

“We need to leave for Bethlehem soon and get our new friends into their home,” Caleb directed.

I’ll fix up a quick snack and something for your trip to the Inn,”

Kalanit said. Caleb helped Jeremiah and Ruth load their animals with their belongings and a few supplies for the Inn. Joel busied himself helping Kalanit with the food.

Ruth came to help with snacks, and they sat on the patio for a quick late lunch; but the time to depart came all too soon.

Kalanit hugged little Joel one more time. “He will be a good helper,” she told Ruth.

“Yes,” Ruth replied, “he enjoys carrying the little things for us.”

Caleb led the way when the family left Jerusalem for the 3-hour walk to Bethlehem.

“You will be staying in our family’s house near the Inn. After Father died, I moved out of it and stayed at the Inn at Jerusalem to help Kalanit, leaving our Bethlehem assistant and his wife in charge. A year later he took a job in Bethphage, so the couple left a few months ago. I searched through Bethlehem and Jerusalem but found no one of the mindset, integrity, or work ethic I was looking for. That’s when Uncle Nir mentioned you and Ruth. If he recommended his own employees that he respected, I knew I could trust his judgment. I’m glad you have joined our staff at the Inn” Caleb said, as they approached the well by the gate, outside of Bethlehem.

“We are grateful for your offer and look forward to being of good service,” Jeremiah replied.

Before entering the gate of Bethlehem, Caleb and the Nazarene family stopped at the well to drink the refreshing, cool water, and they enjoyed the gentle breezes as they sat in the shade visiting with some of the locals.

Jeremiah asked Caleb to share some history of Bethlehem.

“We passed Rachel’s tomb where Jacob buried his wife after she died giving birth to Benjamin, the 12th Patriarch of Israel.¹³⁹

“Nearly 1,000 years ago, after the death of her husband and two sons, [Naomi](#)¹⁴⁰ returned from Moab to Bethlehem, bringing one of her daughters-in-law, [Ruth](#) the Moabitess, with her. I’m sure you know the story of [Boaz](#), a man of superior integrity, strength and very knowledgeable of the Laws of God.”

“Oh yes,” replied Jeremiah, “the great kinsman-redeemer story.¹⁴¹ ‘Boaz might have said, my money is as good as my kinsman’s; if I have a mind to it, why may not I buy it privately, since I had the first proffer of it, and say nothing to my kinsman?’

“Boaz, though fond enough of the purchase,” Caleb continued, “would not do so mean a thing as to take a bargain over another man’s head that was nearer a-kin to it; and we are taught by his example to be not only just and honest, but fair and honorable, in all our dealings.”

‘To do nothing which we are unwilling should see the light of day, but be above-board,’”¹⁴² Jeremiah quickly agreed.

“That’s right, Boaz followed the chain of command to an extreme, gathering ten honorable witnesses to meet with him when he explained Naomi and Ruth’s situation to the closest kinsman. This relative was not able to purchase the land and be the kinsman-redeemer, so he turned it over to Boaz, the next in line. Boaz was also the great grandfather of King David, who was born and raised in Bethlehem.”

139 i.22.1 “...and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath; the same is Bethlehem”,

[Genesis 35:19](#); and [Genesis 48:7](#)

140 i.22.1 – [Ruth1:2 ff](#)

141 i.22.1 [Ruth 4](#)

142 i.1 [Matthew Henrys commentary on Ruth Chapter 4](#)

“Imagine being King David’s great grandpa¹⁴³; certainly, proves integrity pays off!” Jeremiah exclaimed. “There is a lot of history in here; I did not know all of Boaz’s background. I did know this is called the City of David. I was born here, also. When I was thirteen, my family moved to Nazareth.”

Caleb continued his history discussion. “My grandfather, **Ro’I**, leased the land where David was tending the sacrificial lambs and his father’s flock when he left fighting predators like lions and bears, to fight the giant Philistine, **Goliath**, to protect the Israelites and bring honor to God’s name. He knew the same God that protected him, and his flock would also prevail against such a formidable foe. Years later, Samuel came to Bethlehem and anointed David King over Israel.

“Let’s go to your new home, it is just a short walk from the well.” Caleb said. “I need to go over to the inn. After you unload, please come to the Inn for supper. You can leave Simchah and the donkeys in the stables. Tomorrow, I will give you a tour.” After dinner they finalized their employment agreement.

“The stables,” Caleb pointed out, “as you can see, there is considerable work to be done on remodeling..”

“It will be good to see it all in daylight,” Jeremiah said confidently as the sun began its rapid descent into the coming darkness.

“We will see you in the morning. Thank you for putting so much faith in Ruth and me.”

“Uncle Nir gave you the highest reference,” Caleb answered, “I know I made a wise choice. Shalom.”

The new management team, with Joel, enjoyed the short walk back to the house. Jeremiah had a lot to think about. He now had made peace with himself over the move to his childhood town.

143 i.1 - And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi (kinsman to Boaz who married Ruth, the mother of Obed); and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of King David, [Ruth 4:17](#)

The cafe would be food for the family; however, he must find a young girl to help with the care of Joel. The old corrals were in serious need of repairs; he would have to bring in some professional help.

One thing about Jeremiah, he was ready for a challenge and able to meet whatever came his way with the confidence of a victorious outcome. Because he knew God is his strength and will receive all the glory and honor¹⁴⁴ for each victory.

144 i.1- [Psalm 59:9](#); [Revelation 4:11](#)

DAY 9 Monday

First day at the Bethlehem inn

The sun came up early that cool spring morning. Ruth was the first one up, fixing a hearty breakfast for her two valiant men.

“We must find a young girl to help with Joel while you are at the cafe.” Jeremiah said.

“I was visiting with a near neighbor, [Farrah](#), at the well this morning. She has a 10-year-old daughter, [Shoshana](#). I will speak with her this evening, but for today, I must take Joel with us.”

“Of course,” he replied.

“Now, you two gentlemen must eat a hearty breakfast. You both have a full work day ahead!” Ruth directed.

Caleb, who was staying at the inn, was up at sunrise struggling with business decisions. Before Chacham, died he developed many valuable contacts with the Caravan Masters and worked well with several Roman Centurions which allowed him to gain information on the political scene of Rome. Caleb continued to cultivate his father’s contacts as he struggled to maintain both locations.

When he heard the Centurions talk about [Caesar Augustus](#)’ plans to demand an empire-wide census for taxation purposes, he knew he had to hire a manager for the Bethlehem Inn & Café. He was very relieved to see the trio coming in the Café.

“Shalom,” he greeted them. “We have a full day ahead of us. Ruth, I would like you to meet [Netanya](#). She has been with us for many years and will be a great help in the Café.”

The two ladies left for the kitchen to let the men continue their “stable-talk”.

“In a few days you will meet [Asaph](#) and [Aviyah](#). They are twin brothers that tend to our flocks of the sacrificial lambs in the same fields that David watched his father’s sheep. They have two young men helping them, [Aberaim](#) and [Kefir](#).”

“I will look forward to that; we saw the fields north of the village but did not realize these were for the sacrificial lambs.”

Jeremiah commented. “Sheep are most comfortable at 45-70 degrees, so in the winter we must make sure the lambs stay healthy. Thanks to their thick, woolly coats, sheep are relatively easy animals to prepare for the coming winter months.

Allowing them to roam around outside (when dry) will allow them access to better ventilation and will also give them the means to exercise properly and stretch their legs.”

“That’s right, Jeremiah,” Caleb responded. “Sheep can dig through the snow to get to the grass. For summer, we will have ample feed for the sheep because these hills will be nearly bare.”

“Yes, northwest of our field is a public pasture. Several shepherds there also are raising lambs for Temple sacrifices,” Caleb responded. “We are very excited to be able to stay in the house of your great-grandfather, [Moriel](#),” Ruth changed the subject.

“You mentioned that coming in the village, when we stopped at the well near the gate to water our animals and rest a while that it was at that very well, a sacred event developed. Would you share that with us tonight?”

“When King David was quite old and fighting the Philistines again, weary from battle, he was resting in the cave of Adullam¹⁴⁵: the troops of the Philistines were pitched in the valley of Rephaim with a garrison in Bethlehem.

“Three Captains of David’s thirty mighty men went down and joined David at the cave. The elderly David remembered his boyhood days when he watched over the flocks of his father, Jesse; recalling also it was outside of Bethlehem he defended the Israelites against Goliath and where the prophet Nathan anointed him King of Israel.¹⁴⁶ These three mighty men overheard him say to himself:

145 i.1 – [1 Samuel 22:1](#)

146 i.1 - [1 Samuel 17:34-36, 41-50](#); and [1 Kings 1:32-45](#)

“Oh that one would give me a drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!”¹⁴⁷

The three mighty men penetrated the host of the Philistines troop at Bethlehem, drew water out of the well, that was by the gate, and brought it to David: “*Nevertheless, he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD. And he said, be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it.*”¹⁴⁸

“These three mighty men were leaders in David’s military and risk their lives for a cup of water?” Jeremiah asked.

“Yes,” Caleb replied.

“So he refused to drink it and just poured it out on the ground?” pursued Jeremiah.

“David had such great respect for these men, our prophet Samuel told us the great accomplishments of two of them: Abishai, the chief among the three, killed 300 men with only his spear; and Benaiah, killed a lion in the midst of a pit in the snow and King David put him charge of his security.”¹⁴⁹

End of Chapter 1

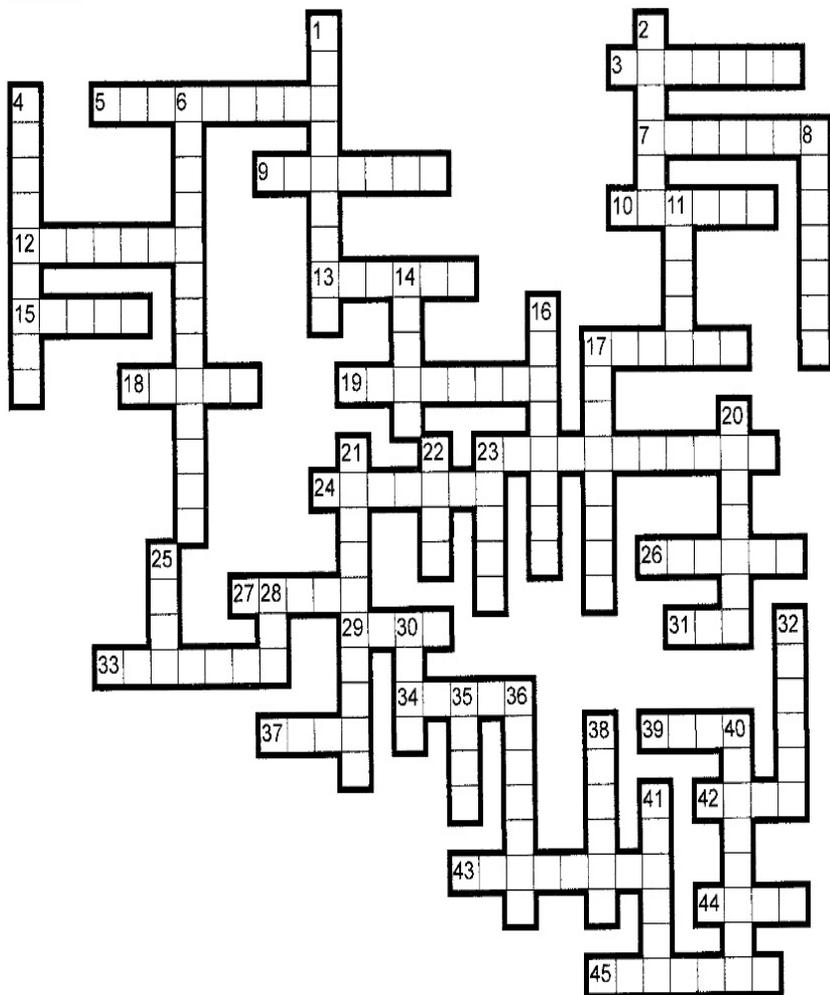
147 i.1 – [2 Samuel 23:15](#)

148 i.1 - [2 Samuel 23:16-17](#)

149 i.1 – [2 Samuel 23:17-24](#)

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ch 1 puzzle



Question list

Please print the puzzle¹⁵⁰ page to complete it. Or use this [link](#) to complete the puzzle online 

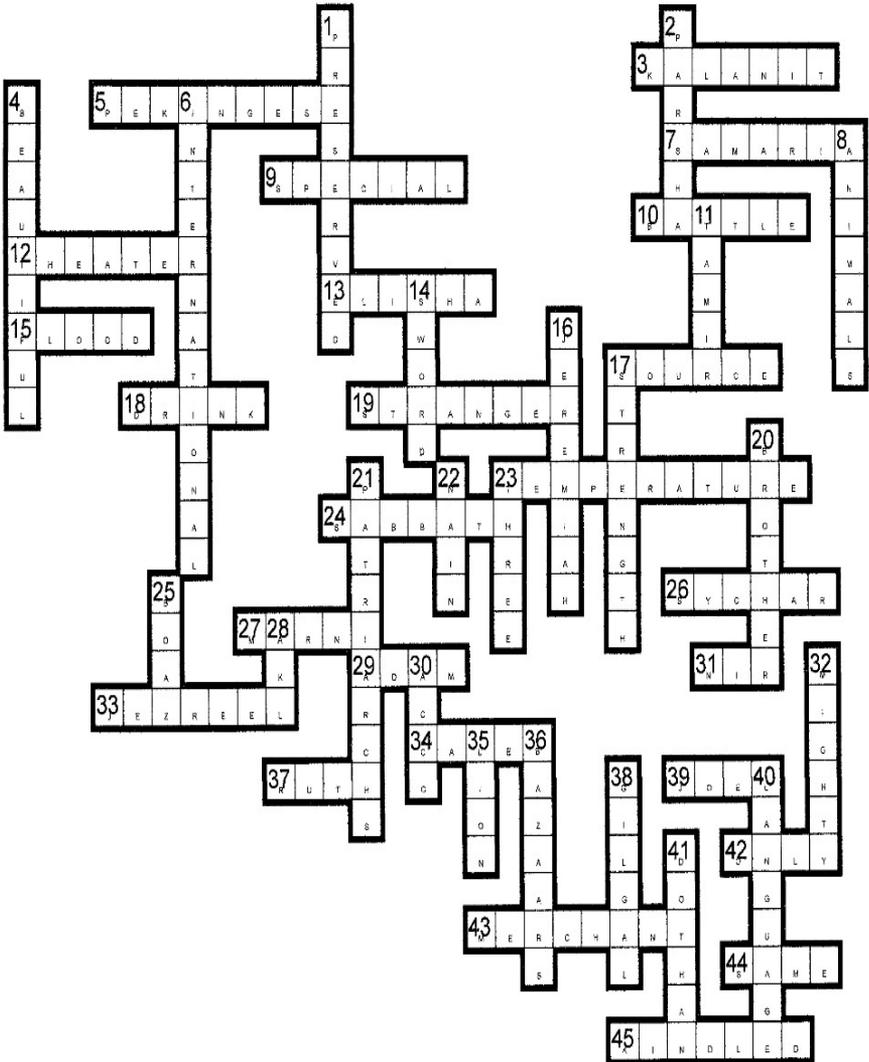
FREE Puzzle
ONLINE!



Word bank

ACCO ADAM AKL ANIMALS BATTLE BAZAARS BEAUTIFUL BOAZ BROTHER CALEB
DOTHAN DRINK ELISHA FLOOD GILGAL INTERNATIONAL JEREMIAH JEZREEL JOEL
KALANIT KINDLED LANGUAGE LION MARNI MERCHANT MIGHTY NAIN NIR ONLY
PARSHA PATRIARCHS PEKINGESE PRESERVED RUTH SABBATH SAMARIA SAME
SOURCE SPECIAL STRANGER STRENGTH SWORD SYCHAR TAMIR TEMPERATURE
THEATER THREE

Answers for Puzzle 1



Answers for Puzzle 1

Across

3. KALANIT — _____ lit the candles for Shabbat before sunset. (7)
5. PEKINGESE — Jeremiah purchased a _____ camel in Jenin. (9)
7. SAMARIA — Jenin was the city in _____ where the Nazareth couple joined Lampo's caravan. (7)
9. SPECIAL — Mary created the recipe for her _____ honey-cinnamon bread. (7)
10. BATTLE — Jeremiah discussed the Jezreel _____ area with Netanel. (6)
12. THEATER — King Herod built a _____ and a three tall towers in Jerusalem. (7)
13. ELISHA — Who said, "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."? (6)
15. FLOOD — Did Jordan River was at _____ stage when God stopped his fow for the Israelites to cross over on dry land. (5)
17. SOURCE — The Gihon Spring is the most important _____ to supply Jerusalem with water. (6)
18. DRINK — In the cave of Adullam, King David wanted a _____ of water from Bethlehem. (5)
19. STRANGER — A _____ told the travelers about the life of Joseph. (8)
23. TEMPERATURE — Jeremiah was amazed that the desert night _____ was nearly 50° cooler than the noon time heat. (11)
24. SABBATH — "Remember the _____ day to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8). (7)
26. SYCHAR — A city that is half a mile from Jacob's well. (6)
27. MARNI — Name of Jeremiah's friendly camel. (5)
29. ADAM — God caused the Jordan River to stop flowing causing it to back up from the Dead (Salt) Sea to the city of _____. (4)
31. NIR — Caleb's uncle. (3)
33. JEZREEL — Known by the Greeks as Esdraelon. (7)
34. CALEB — Several weeks later, _____ came to Bethlehem to discuss the remodeling project with Jeremiah. (5)
37. RUTH — Who managed the Inn & Cafe in Bethlehem when Jesus was born? (4)
39. JOEL — 18 month old boy that chased the fish in a stream. (4)
42. ONLY — Lampros did not understand why it is important to _____ worship the One true God. (4)

43. MERCHANT — Jeremiah and Ruth travel to Bethlehem with a _____ caravan. (8)
44. SAME — Life there will not be the _____. (4)
45. KINDLED — King Saul's anger was _____ when he heard of the Amorite Nahash proposal to the men of Jabesh-Gilead (1st Samuel 11:6). (7)

Down

1. PRESERVED — While shopping in Nablus, Ruth found an Egyptian booth offering easily foods. (9)
2. PARSHA — Caleb read the _____ from the Torah. (6)
4. BEAUTIFUL — The _____ valley of Jezreel has a history of wars. (9)
6. INTERNATIONAL — Rebecca shared her _____ recipes with Ruth. (13)
8. ANIMALS — Jeremiah was gifted in working with _____. (7)
11. TAMIR — The tall and stately Rabbi who lived in Nazareth. (5)
14. SWORD — "The _____ of the Lord and Gideon!" (5)
16. JEREMIAH — Who managed the stables in Bethlehem when Jesus was born? (6)
17. STRENGTH — The doors of the Women's Court gate is so heavy it took the _____ of 20 men to open it. (8)
20. BROTHER — Jabir was the older _____ of Jeremiah. (7)
21. PATRIARCHS — Along the route to Dothan is the pit the _____ threw their brother Joseph in. (10)
22. NAIN — Ruth's sister lives here. (4)
23. THREE — Gideon's army of _____ hundred select men chosen by God to fight the thousands of Midianites. (5)
25. BOAZ — King David's great grandpa. (4)
28. AKL — Egyptian bazaar owner who helped Ruth with food choices. (3)
30. ACCO — Yaron obtained 3 new accounts here. (4)
32. MIGHTY — Adino, Eleaszar and Shammah were three of King David's _____ men. (6)
35. LION — Meaning of Kafir's name is _____ cub. (4)
36. BAZAARS — Street markets were referred to as _____. (7)
38. GILGAL — Abraham erected his first altar in Canaan land in _____, beside the plain of Moreh. (6)
40. LANGUAGE — It seemed like Marni and Joel spoke the same _____. (6)
41. DOTHAN — God performed a miracle when the Syrians came to _____ looking for Elisha, (2nd Kings 6:8-23). (6)

Chapter 2

Meeting with Remodelers.

The couple had been working the inn and stables for 6 months.

This gave them time to learn what was working best and to make any necessary changes

Several weeks later, Caleb and Kalanit came to Bethlehem to discuss the remodeling project with Jeremiah.

He said, "We're going to start expanding soon! I would like you and your family to move into the Inn, so you'll be able to oversee the expansion as well as manage the stables. Would that be ok with you?"

Ruth, who was sitting across from him at the old wooden table, asked, "Will the Cafe get a boost as well?"

"Absolutely. If you agree, we will start planning the first week of Cheshvan,"¹⁵¹ Caleb replied.

The brief eye contact between Jeremiah and Ruth cinched the deal.

"We're in!" Jeremiah exclaimed, even though he knew a lot about animals and their care, he knew nothing about construction.

Kalanit and Ruth agreed to talk later about the potential changes for the Inn and Café.

"And there's more," said Caleb. "I must share this with you so you will be prepared, but you cannot tell another soul. On the 23rd of Tishri¹⁵², Caesar Augustus will declare an Empire-wide census.¹⁵³ He is attempting to be fair to the Roman Empire, but he must reevaluate the tax structure. Every man must bring his family to the city of his heritage. Therefore, we will see a major increase in business in both Bethlehem and Jerusalem."

"We're with you, Caleb," they agreed.

¹⁵¹ Cheshvan (Heshvan) – Oct/Nov

¹⁵² Tishri – Sept/Oct

¹⁵³ i.1 – [Luke 2:1](#)

Sure enough, on the 5th of Cheshvan, Caleb arrived with his planning group and for three days they measured and contemplated the expansion.

Jeremiah was certainly glad that Caleb brought in men of knowledge about the construction that needed to be done. He and Ruth met the man from Solomon's mine when on the Jerusalem tour with Caleb.

On the evening of the 8th, the planners, Caleb, Jeremiah, and Ruth sat at the table outside on the patio. Shoshana kept a watchful eye on the wide awake two-year old, Joel.

The early fall breeze put a bit of chill in the air and Ruth served up hot tea and her fresh honey-cinnamon bread.

She and Jeremiah were excited to see the extent Caleb wanted to expand: a larger corral for the camels, expand the sheep paddocks, more stables for at least ten more horses for rentals, five additional rooms for the travelers and a larger outdoor patio for dining.

"The rooms will be full in no time at all!" stated Ruth.

Caleb smiled. He knew that women are not generally so outspoken in their culture, but Ruth was not a woman to be reckoned with. When she saw progress coming, she would step in there and push it right along plans, Caleb said. "Jeremiah, if you have any thoughts on the care of the caravan animals, let me know."

"Certainly," he replied. He was thankful for the traveling days with Lampros's caravan. Lampros' men took good care of his animals, but they appreciated Jeremiah's input when health issues came up.

"I am so glad we travelled in the caravan," Ruth commented. "I've collected dozens of recipes and foreign food tips."

"Our caravan days were a priceless education, Ruth." Then with a reminiscing smile, her husband continued, "I remember so many things Ol' Surefoot taught me."

"Why did they call him Ol' Surefoot?" she asked.

“Because” Jeremiah replied, “no one knew better than he did about the proper care and treatment of the camel's padded hoofs.

Horses have a very hard solid hoof, a camel has softer pads.

“I just know that I preferred riding on Simchah instead of those Roman horses,” Ruth said as she cleaned up the table.

Jeremiah was up early the next morning, measuring, remembering the sheep folds he saw along the way from Nazareth. He wanted to have the best corrals in the country that would provide excellent protection for the animals.

At breakfast, Ruth could see in his face the frustration about the intensity of the remodeling project. She understood he knew more about animals than construction any day.

“Have you not learned anything about how God has a perfect plan for our lives?” she asked.

Looking up from his meal, he thought a moment before answering and then said quoting the Prophet Jeremiah and King David *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; ...”*¹⁵⁴ and *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*¹⁵⁵

Ruth smiled and quoted King David, *“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him ...”*¹⁵⁶

He got up and hugged his precious wife, and spent the rest of the day working his daily chores worry free. Caleb returned in a few weeks with some good news. He told Jeremiah that the supplies he and Jeremiah agreed upon were arriving soon.

“From Meron in Upper Galilee we will be getting the slender pine trees



Slender trees
Credit: i.45 - The author

154 i.22.1 – [Jeremiah 1:5](#)

155 i.22.1 – [Psalm 119:105](#)

156 i.22.1 – [Psalm 37:7](#)

which are a better quality than the ones grown locally due to the rainier climate and fertile soils.

“We should get two rails from each log; they're approximately 33 feet in length and four posts from each tree. We will use the rails to also build a shaded area with palm branches for a roof.

“That's going to cost a lot to transport,” Jeremiah said.

“Actually,” Caleb replied, “your friend Lampros negotiated with fellow caravan masters and in exchange for transporting the materials, we will put them up at the Inn for several visits. The large stones that you requested are coming from Solomon’s mine in Jerusalem. Some of the locals refer to it as Zedekiah’s Cave.¹⁵⁷ The mine manager is sending us any large stones that

were rejected by Herod’s crew due to imperfections, and he will ship them at a discount for us. The largest will be about 30 lbs. I made an agreement for the discounted price he and his wife could eat at Ruth's Inn free for a year. He was so impressed with her variety of meals when he came last Cheshvan for our planning meeting.

“Were you able to negotiate with our neighbor to lease some land for the camel corral expansion?”

Jeremiah asked.

“Yes,” Caleb replied with the grin, “but that too will cost us.”

“How is that?” Jeremiah asked.

“If you'll agree,” Caleb said, “to help him should any of his animals need help beyond his unskilled abilities to care for them, he would not charge us anything.”



Sheep fold
Image by [Grok](#)

157 i.204 – Zedekiah’s cave – “The cave was also said to be the hiding place of King Zedekiah when the Babylonians came to siege Jerusalem.” holylandsite.com

Laughing, Jeremiah quickly agreed. Both Ruth and Jeremiah felt better about the upcoming remodeling project.

It was the last week of Cheshvan that the first shipment of stones arrived from Solomon's mine. Jeremiah directed the crew to store them adjacent to the old stables.

Over the next three weeks, the supplies continued to arrive; by the end of Kislev almost everything Jeremiah needed for the remodeling had arrived.

Caleb arrived the third week of Kislev¹⁵⁸ with the devastating news that the Jerusalem project was falling severely weeks behind schedule and Bethlehem's remodel would have to be pushed back for months.

The saddened management team knew, as others did not, that soon the streets of their village would be filled with travelers coming for the taxation census.

"We must prepare ourselves, Ruth, to turn away many needy people," Jeremiah spoke in a quiet voice.

"We could hold back a room for emergencies," she said.

"Yes," he agreed, "I'll be in the stables and begin clearing more room for the animals."

The well-meaning couple had no idea what would happen very soon.

As Ruth looked up from her kitchen window, she saw a group of Roman soldiers approaching.

"Oh, won't Joel be surprised." Ruth exclaimed, "It's our friend Virgil!" She quickly dried her hands and ran to meet them.

"*Buongiorno!*"¹⁵⁹ Ruth greeted her new guests, attempting to impress Virgil with her new knowledge of Italian language.

He replied with a grin, "*Bongiorno, Ruth, Come stai?*"¹⁶⁰"

158 Kislev – Nov/Dec

159 Bongiorno - "Good Morning "

160 Come va -"How are you?"

“We are doing very well,” Ruth answered in Aramaic. “I’m just learning some Italian from one of our guests. Will you be able to stay for some breakfast?”

“Yes,” Virgil replied. “We’ll be in Bethlehem most of today.”

“That is wonderful,” she excitedly said, “Jeremiah and his helpers are out in the field already measuring for the new camel corral. Joel is still asleep, but he’ll wake up soon. I hope you’ll be able to come back for dinner. I’ll fix you a special meal and Jeremiah will be so glad to see you again.”

“As I will be glad to see him also. Yes, we will be back for one of your most delicious meals.” Virgil answered her as he dismounted from his horse.

Virgil and his men had just set down to enjoy pancakes when Joel, now almost 5 years old, heard the commotion and ran to greet his soldier friend.

They had a lot to catch up on now that Joel is learning to speak Hebrew and Aramaic.

Ruth told Virgil, “Next year, Joel will be learning Greek as well.”

“That will be easy for him,” Virgil commented. “He is a very bright young boy.”

When they finished their breakfast, Virgil asked young Joel if he would like to ride out to see Jeremiah at work, to which Joel excitedly replied, “Yes! Does that mean I get a ride on the horse with you? “

“Yes, my young friend you’ll be riding up front and leading the way,”

Virgil replied.

“Awesome!”, he said excitedly in Aramaic.

Ruth smiled and as Virgil picked him up, carrying him out to the horse and putting him on the big animal.

“Giddy-up!” Joel yelled excitedly.

Virgil’s men kept busy playing their favorite board game, Ludus latrunculorum ¹⁶¹ while the duo was gone.

Joel took Virgil the scenic route to the corrals because he wanted to ride the horse longer. Virgil understood what he was doing even though he could see the corrals off in the distance.

“Greetings my friend, how have you been?” Virgil asked Jeremiah.

“Very well,” Jeremiah replied. “Soon we hope to be starting on our remodeling project. We’re just getting measurements today,”

“I can only stay a few moments and then must get into Bethlehem to meet with some other military. I’ll drop Joel back at the inn. But we’ll be back in time for Ruth’s phenomenal dinners”

Grinning, Jeremiah waved and shouted “*Arrivederci!*”

Ruth busied herself the rest of the day preparing an excellent meal for Virgil and his four companions.

Just before sundown Virgil and his men returned looking forward to Ruth’s cooking. She had prepared an extra special meal of Lemon Butter Chicken served with a small garden side salad and baked asparagus.



Joel and Virgil n Horseback
Credit: i.241 – grok.com

161 i.23 - the game of soldiers, resembling chess, a two player strategy board game, imperiumromanum.pl/

Jeremiah led in a blessing for the food: “Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d,¹⁶² King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth. Who creates the fruit of the vine. For all vegetables and greens from the ground.

Who creates the fruit of the earth blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, by whose word all things came to be.”¹⁶³

“AMEN,” said Ruth, Joel, Jeremiah and Virgil, who remembered hearing their prayers on the journey from Jericho to Jerusalem. After taking one bite, One of the soldiers exclaimed

“*Saltimbocca!*”

Jeremiah looked up from his plate with the question: “What is this Saltimbocca?” Jeremiah asked.

Ruth looked over to Virgil, who responded.

“In Italian, it means ‘jumps in your mouth.’”

“It certainly looks good enough to do just that,” Jeremiah replied with a big smile.

“I’ve not had asparagus since I was back in Rome at one of my mom’s meals,” Virgil admitted.

“Yes,” another of the soldiers added, “it is a real treat, thank you ever much.”

“Ah, the real treat is yet to come,” Jeremiah said. “I saw Ruth take the chocolate cake from the oven.” When she placed it on the table the excited soldiers, almost in unison, said, “*TORTA AL CIOCCOLATO!*”¹⁶⁴



Italian chocolate cake
Credit: i.262 -
recipesfromitaly.org

162 i.50 - God in Judaism, Chabad.org

152 i.50 - Blessing prayer before eating, chabad.org

164 i.262 – Classic Italian Chocolate Cake (Torta al Cioccolato), recipesfromitaly.org English phonetics

“TOR-tah ahl choh-koh-LAH-toh”

Virgil was impressed as Ruth served the cake with the Crema Pasticcera filling¹⁶⁵ oozing out of each slice.

As the soldiers rose to leave they thanked Ruth and Jeremiah for their hospitality.

“You really surprised me with an excellent Italian meal. I did not expect that, thank you very much, Ruth,” Virgil told her.

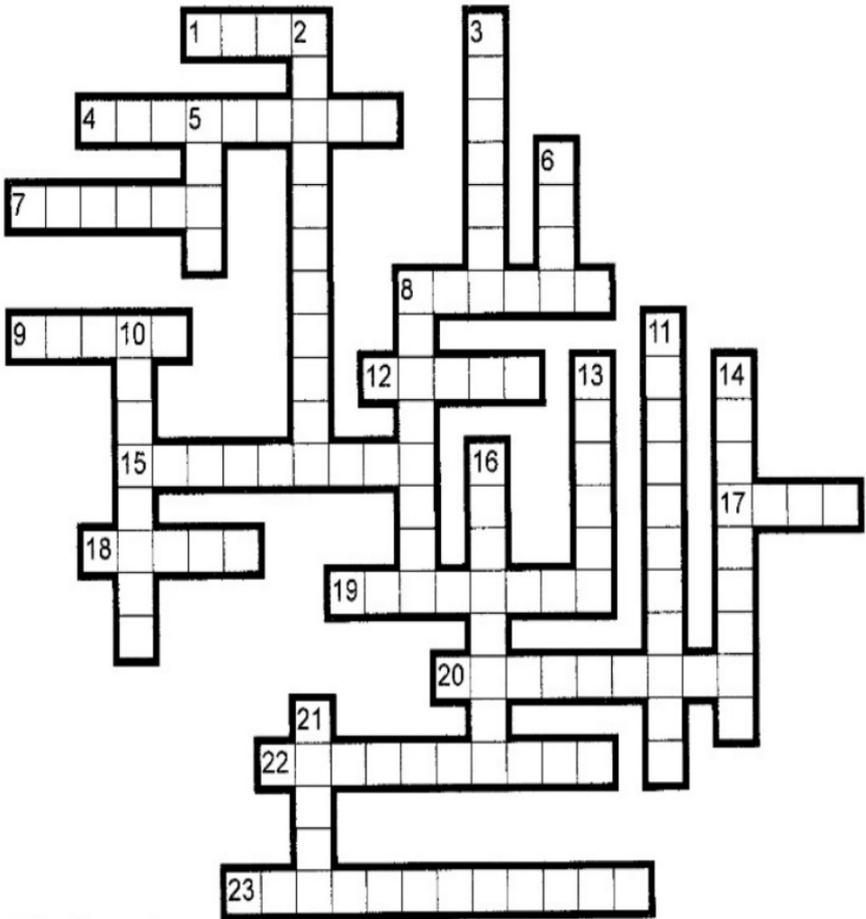
As they mounted their horses to leave, Joel went out to wave goodbye and hollered “*Arrivederci! mia amico*¹⁶⁶” as his friend rode off into the evening darkness.

165 i.262 - Crema Pasticcera (Italian Pastry Cream, recipessfromitaly.org)

166 mia amico - my friend

blank

chapter 2 puzzle



EclipseCrossword.com

Word bank

BELIEVED CAVE COUNTRY FAVOR FILLED IMPOSSIBLE JOHN KINGDOM LEAPED
 LUKE PERFORMING PLANNING PRESENCE RAFA SEPPHORIS SPECIAL TROUBLED
 VIRGIN VISITED

chapter 2 puzzle

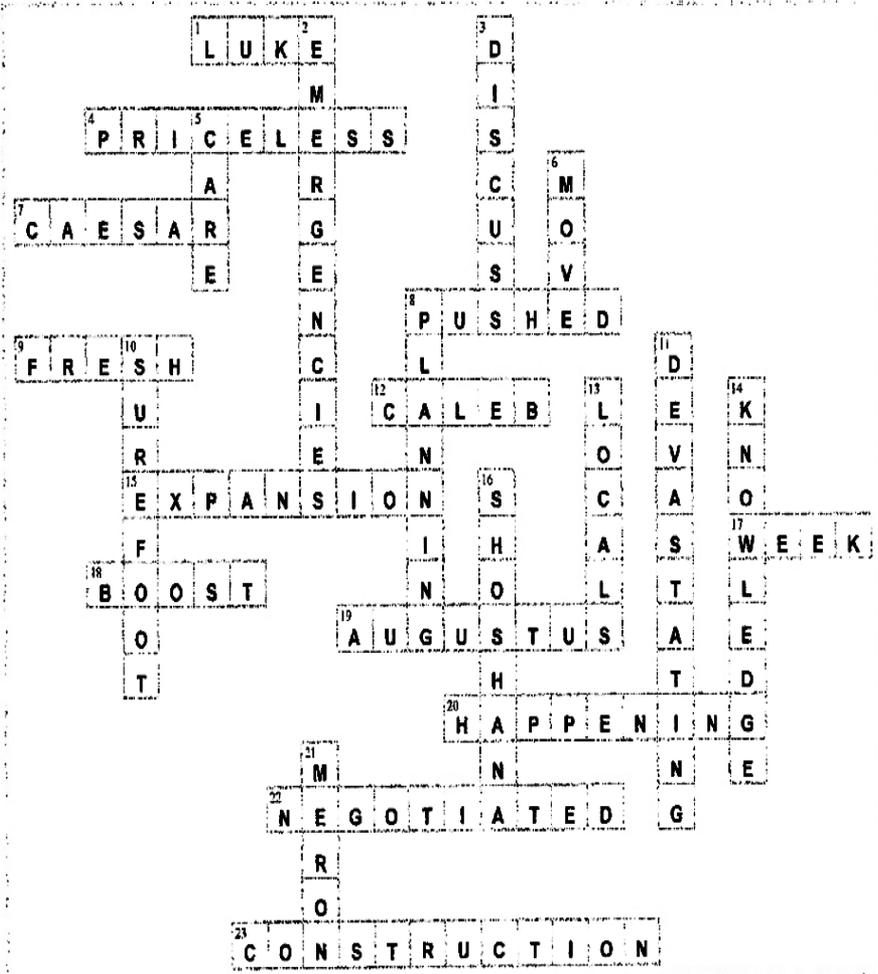
Across

1. The Bible story of Jesus birth in _____ 1:26-56 (4)
4. Our caravan days were a _____ education Jeremiah told Ruth (9)
7. _____ Augustus will declare an empire wide census (6)
8. bethlehem's remodel would have to be _____ back for months (6)
9. Served up hot tea and her _____ honey - cinnamon bread. (5)
12. Several weeks later, _____ came to Bethlehem to discuss the remodeling project with Jeremiah. (5)
15. Jeremiah was willing to trade animal expertise for the _____ of the Camel Corral (9)
17. planning the remodeling started the first _____ of Cheshvan (4)
18. Ruth asked, "Will the cafe get a _____ as well?" (5)
19. On the 23rd of Tishrei, _____ Caesar will declare an Empire-wide census. (8)
20. The well-meaning couple had no idea what would be _____ very soon. (9)
22. Your friend Lamprose _____ with fellow caravan masters (10)
23. Caleb brought in men of knowledge about the _____ (12)

Down

2. We could hold back a room for _____
_ Ruth told Jeremiah (11)
3. Caleb and Kalanit came to Bethlehem to _____
_ the remodeling project (7)
5. Lampros' men took good _____ of his animals (4)
6. Caleb wanted the family from Nazareth to _____
into the inn (4)
8. We will start _____ The first week
Chesvan, (8)
10. Who knew better than anyone about the proper
care and treatment of the camel's padded hoofs,
but Ol' _____ ? (8)
11. Caleb arrived with the _____ news
(11)
13. some of the _____ referred to Solomon's mine
as Zedekiah's cave (6)
14. Caleb brought in men of knowledge about The
construction (9)
16. _____ kept a watchful eye on the wide
awake two-year old, Joel. (8)
21. The slender pine trees from _____ in Upper
Galilee were a better quality (5)

chapter 2 puzzle



Across

1. LUKE — The Bible story of Jesus birth in _____ 1:26-56 (4)
4. PRICELESS — Our caravan days were a _____ education Jeremiah told Ruth (9)
7. CAESAR — _____ Augustus will declare an empire wide census (6)
8. PUSHED — bethlehem's remodel would have to be _____ back for months (6)
9. FRESH — Served up hot tea and her _____ honey - cinnamon bread. (5)
12. CALEB — Several weeks later, _____ came to Bethlehem to discuss the remodeling project with Jeremiah. (5)
15. EXPANSION — Jeremiah was willing to trade animal expertise for the _____ of the Camel Corral (9)
17. WEEK — planning the remodeling started the first _____ of Cheshvan (4)
18. BOOST — Ruth asked, "Will the cafe get a _____ as well?" (5)
19. AUGUSTUS — On the 23rd of Tishrei, _____ Caesar will declare an Empire-wide census. (8)
20. HAPPENING — The well-meaning couple had no idea what would be _____ very soon. (9)
22. NEGOTIATED — Your friend Lamprose _____ with fellow caravan masters (10)
23. CONSTRUCTION — Caleb brought in men of knowledge about the _____ (12)

Down

2. EMERGENCIES — We could hold back a room for _____ Ruth told Jeremiah (11)
3. DISCUSS — Caleb and Kalanit came to Bethlehem to _____ the remodeling project (7)
5. CARE — Lampros' men took good _____ of his animals (4)
6. MOVE — Caleb wanted the family from Nazareth to _____ into the inn (4)
8. PLANNING — We will start _____ The first week Chesvan, (8)
10. SUREFOOT — Who knew better than anyone about the proper care and treatment of the camel's padded hoofs, but Ol' _____ ? (8)
11. DEVASTATING — Caleb arrived with the _____ news (11)
13. LOCALS — some of the _____ referred to Solomon's mine as Zedekiah's cave (6)
14. KNOWLEDGE — Caleb brought in men of knowledge about The construction (9)
16. SHOSHANA — _____ kept a watchful eye on the wide awake two-year old, Joel. (8)
21. MERON — The slender pine trees from _____ in Upper Galilee were a better quality (5)

Chapter 3

In Nazareth, Anna Marie tells her neighbor Rachel about Gabriel's visit to Mary and what he said to her cousin's husband,

Rachel was drawing water from the well in Nazareth when Anna Marie, her friend from across town came for water.

“Rachel, I must tell you the most exciting news,” Anna Marie said.

“Mary knew about God predicting the coming of the Messiah, and I told her these stories many times when she was a little girl and that she was a special one, as you know.

I could not have any children, and I prayed and fasted’ I asked God for a child.¹⁶⁷ Mary was my first child. She’s 19 years old now, and the big surprise came yesterday. The Angel **Gabriel** visited her and told her she would have a baby, a very special son.

Doctor Rafa. our family doctor, came to see us last night, and I told him Angel Gabriel was sent from God to Nazareth, to my daughter, Mary. When he heard this, he began writing it all down.

The angel came into her house, and said, “**Hail, you that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art you among women.**”¹⁶⁸

Mary was troubled by what the angel had said, and thought: “what was he trying to say?” When Gabriel saw the look on her face, he said to her: “**Fear not, Mary: for you hast found favor with God. And behold, you shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shall and call his name JESUS. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom, there shall be no end.**”¹⁶⁹

167 i.1- [Luke 1:26ff](#)

168 i.1- [Luke 1:28](#)

169 i.1- [Luke 1:30-33](#)

This was a lot for Mary to take in; however she did ask the angel, “How can this be, I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered and said unto her, “*The Holy Ghost shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you: therefore, also that holy thing which shall be the baby in your womb shall be called the Son of God.*

And behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she has also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.”¹⁷⁰

When Mary realized that not only was her cousin, Elisabeth, also going to have a baby, she herself would be giving birth to a unique son as well, she said to the Angel Gabriel, “*Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to your word.*”¹⁷¹

With his earthly mission accomplished, the angel departed.

Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth, were very close and she was concerned about her and knew she must visit her immediately. She went to Joseph’s workshop to discuss the travel plans; he was repairing some kind of gadget for Lucius, a Roman Centurion friend.

After persuading Joseph she needed to leave right away, Lucius offered to take Mary to Jerusalem . First thing in the morning with his troops because he had to meet with King Herod.

Rushing home to pack, she knew she could easily get to Zacharias’ house as it was only an hour walk from Jerusalem.

“When Elizabeth heard Mary greet her in the house, her baby leaped for joy in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. She instantly knew Mary was the expecting mother of the Messiah.

170 i.1- [Luke 1:33-37](#)

171 i.1- [Luke 1:38](#)

Hugging Mary, she exclaimed: *“blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.”*¹⁷²

And Mary replied, *“My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*

*For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden:”*¹⁷³

Elizabeth told Mary of Gabriel the angel who had spoken to her husband Zacharias when he performed his priestly duties in the temple.

“According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.



Zacharias burning incense in the Temple
Credit: i.241 - [Grok \(AI\)](#)

*And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.”*¹⁷⁴

Gabriel told Zacharias not to be afraid, God has heard his prayer.

“Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and you shalt call his name John.

And you shalt have joy and gladness, and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord



Gabriel speaking to Zacharias
Image by i.257 - [Canva](#)

172 i.1- [Luke 1:45](#)

173 i.1 - [Luke 1:46 ff](#)

174 i.1- [Luke 1:8-12](#)

and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.”¹⁷⁵

“Zacharias must have been surprised”, said Mary.

“Yes, but the unexpected visitor told him more,” Elizabeth continued.

“And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.”¹⁷⁶

Zacharias wanted something from God, more than a memory of the Angel’s promise so Gabriel said to him.

“And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God, and am sent to speak unto thee and to shew thee these glad tidings.

And behold, you shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because you believe not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.”¹⁷⁷

Finally, Zacharias left the temple to rejoin those outside who were getting worried about him taking such a long time to burn incense at the altar as required by Jewish law.¹⁷⁸

“And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them and remained speechless.

175 i.1- [Luke 1:13-17](#)

176 i.1- [Luke 1:17-18](#)

177 i.1- [Luke 1:19-20](#)

178 i.1- [Leviticus 16:12-13](#)

And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.”¹⁷⁹

Mary then told Elizabeth about the conversation with Gabriel that occurred just a week ago.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about 3 months until Lucius and his soldiers returned to Nazareth and stopped at Zacharias’s house to check on Mary.

She was starting to show that she was three months pregnant with the baby Messiah.

Lucius convinced her that she should go back to Nazareth with him and his soldiers. It would be much safer than alone or with a merchant’s caravan.

He also told her “I can’t tell you everything, but there will be a big announcement coming from Rome in the next few months and you best get home that may require you and Joseph to return to the Jerusalem area. You need to prepare for it soon. I will let Joseph know as soon as I have more details.”

So, Mary returned to Nazareth in safety.

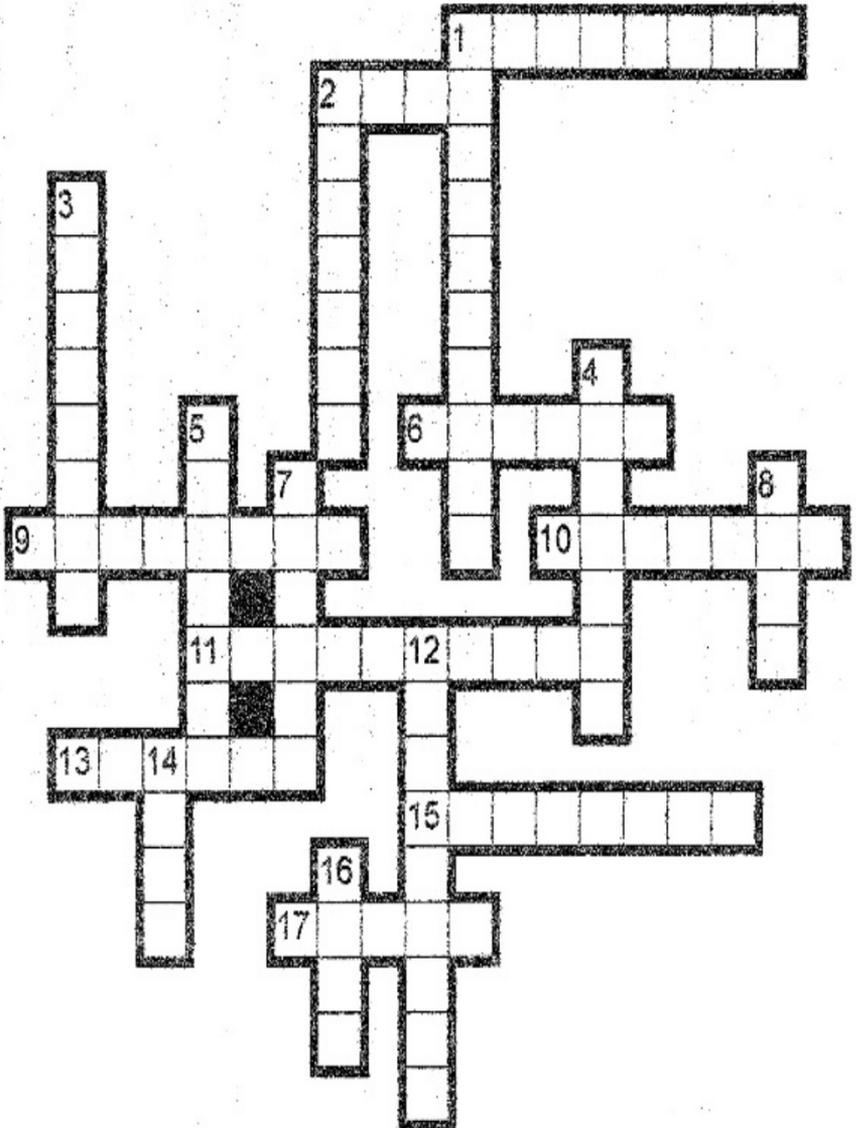


*Lucius came to check on Mary
Credit: [Grok \(AI\)](#) generated image*

179 i.1 - [Lukel:22-23](#)

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Puzzle 3



Puzzle 3

Across

1. "I am Gabriel, that stand in _____ of God" (8)
2. "Jeremiah, quickly, we must make room for them in _____" (4)
6. Mary asked the Angel, "How can this be. I am a _____?" (6)
9. "And blessed is she that _____" (8)
10. of his _____ There shall be no end (7)
11. For with God nothing shall be _____" (10)
13. and he shall be _____ with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. (6)
15. we will start _____ The first week Cheshvan (8)
17. "Fear not, Mary: for you hast found _____ with God" (5)

Down

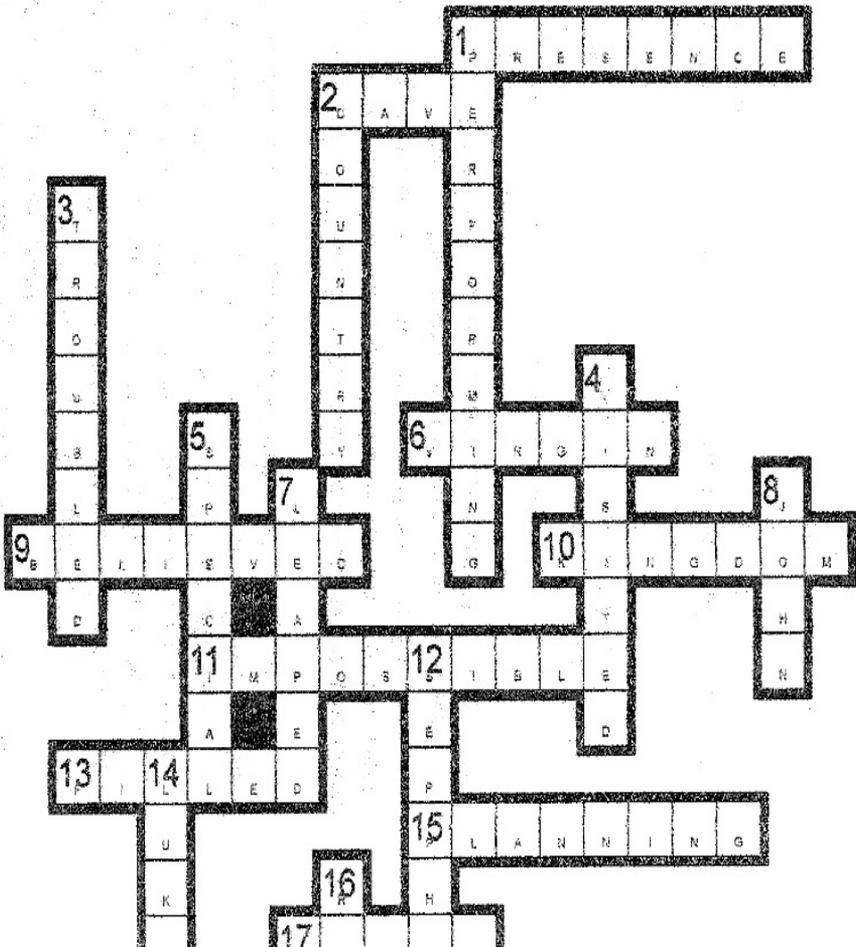
1. Zacharias when he was _____ his priestly duties in the temple (10)
2. Mary's cousin lived near Geba in the hill _____ around Judah (7)
3. Mary was _____ by what the angel had said (8)
4. The Angel Gabriel _____ Her and told her she would have a baby (7)
5. It told her many times that she was a _____ one (7)
7. her baby _____ for joy in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. (6)
8. Elizabeth would this year give birth to a son, and they are to call his name _____ (4)
12. Rachel grew up in _____ and moved to Nazareth (9)
14. The Bible story of Jesus birth _____ 1:26 - 56 (4)
16. Dr Luke's father (4)

word list puzzle

Word bank

BELIEVED CAVE COUNTRY FAVOR FILLED IMPOSSIBLE JOHN KINGDOM LEAPED
 LUKE PERFORMING PLANNING PRESENCE RAFA SEPPHORIS SPECIAL TROUBLED
 VIRGIN VISITED

Puzzle Chapter 3 Answers



Across

1. PRESENCE — "I am Gabriel, that stand in _____ of God" (8)
2. CAVE — "Jeremiah, quickly, we must make room for them in _____" (4)
6. VIRGIN — Mary asked the Angel, "How can this be, I am a _____?" (6)
9. BELIEVED — "And blessed is she that _____" (8)
10. KINGDOM — of his _____ There shall be no end (7)
11. IMPOSSIBLE — For with God nothing shall be _____" (10)
13. FILLED — and he shall be _____ with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. (6)
15. PLANNING — we will start _____ The first week Cheshvan (8)
17. FAVOR — "Fear not, Mary: for you hast found _____ with God" (5)

Down

1. PERFORMING — Zacharias when he was _____ his priestly duties in the temple (10)
2. COUNTRY — Mary's cousin lived near Geba in the hill _____ around Judah (7)
3. TROUBLED — Mary was _____ by what the angel had said (8)
4. VISITED — The Angel Gabriel _____ Her and told her she would have a baby (7)
5. SPECIAL — He told her many times that she was a _____ one (7)
7. LEAPED — her baby _____ for joy in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. (6)
8. JOHN — Elizabeth would this year give birth to a son, and they are to call his name _____ (4)
12. SEPPHORIS — Rachel grew up in _____ and moved to Nazareth (9)
14. LUKE — The Bible story of Jesus' birth _____ 1:26 - 56 (4)
16. RAFA — Dr. Luke's father (4)

Chapter 4

Mary & Joseph leave for Bethlehem.

And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.¹⁸⁰

“Joseph,” Lucius said, “It has been six months now that Mary went with us to see Elizabeth. I mentioned to her an announcement that was coming from Rome soon. It is here, now! I’ saddened to tell you this news. This afternoon I received new orders from Rome. Caesar will be conducting an empire-wide census for taxation purposes. He requires everyone to their heritage.”

“That means Mary and I must go to Bethlehem immediately,” said Joseph.

“Tomorrow at sunrise, I am leading my men to Jerusalem.

Augustus Caesar wants his census edict enforced to the letter that all the Roman Empire must be taxed. For the safety of you and Mary, I encourage you to travel with us to Jerusalem. I have a skilled medical team ordered by King Herod that will travel with us on this trip. She will be safe.”

“After we arrive in Jerusalem, I will send four of my men with you to Bethlehem; I will need a status report from the village,” Lucius concluded.

“Yes,” Joseph said, “Your concern is greatly appreciated. I’ll let Mary know right away. Thank you, my friend, I remain in your debt.”

“Go now, be ready, early,” Lucius replied in more of a command than a ‘see you later tone.’”

“Ok, my friend, we will be ready.”

Joseph quickly explained the emergency to Eli, his assistant, putting him in charge until their return.

Then he hurried home to tell Mary. Excited, and out of breath, Joseph explains why he came home so early.

180 i.1- [Luke 2:3](#)

Over the last couple of days, Mary had been preparing the food and clothing to go to Jerusalem for the Festival of Lights to celebrate Jerusalem's recovery and the rededication of the second temple nearly 200 years ago.¹⁸¹ It was during the Maccabean revolt against the empirical control of the Seleucids. Joseph's ancestor, [Malkiel](#)¹⁸² was killed in that battle.¹⁸³

Joseph's family would go to Jerusalem remembering Malkiel's ultimate sacrifice.

"I was visiting with Lucius," Joseph explained to Mary, "he told me we should leave at sunrise with him and his troops. Augustus has issued a decree¹⁸⁴ that all should be taxed, and he is demanding a census of everyone and that we report to the city of our ancestors. Because I am of the house of King David, we must go to Bethlehem. We will leave at daybreak."

Mary was genuinely concerned because she was nine months pregnant with the baby Jesus and feared the long trip immensely. Her mother, Anna Maria, came over to help her pack. She too, was concerned about her daughter's safety.

"Lucius will have a medical team traveling with him," Mary reassured her mother.

Joseph agreed with her, "King Herod summoned them. Mary, you and the baby will be safe."

Mary was up early that Monday morning, not anxious but still concerned about the long and tedious trip. Joseph finished loading one of their two donkeys and adding some small items on the one Mary would ride.

181 i.123 - Jerusalem is besieged and taken by Antiochus the Great. [biblestudy.org](#)

182 i.25.234 - Malkiel's name means "God is my King", [names.com](#)

183 i.123 - 63 B.C. The Roman Republic, under Pompey the Great, and takes Jerusalem. -

[jewishencyclopedia.com](#) and i.183 Jerusalem Retaken by Maccabees, 164 B.C. - [biblestudy.org](#)

184 i.1- [Luke 2:1](#)

Traveling with the Roman troops was not easy, they had one set pace, and they kept to it. Before sunrise they would take down their tents; pack up; eat a bit of breakfast of bread and vegetables and onto another daily march, stopping only to rest during the heat of the day.

The city of Jenin was only seven hours away. The young couple was glad for a night of rest.

Dawn on Tuesday came earlier than they desired, but the Roman troops were already breaking camp. Joseph quickly prepared the donkeys for their journey to the Nablus military campsite where the Romans had tents set up for traveling troops.

Lucius reserved one for Mary and Joseph.

Leaving early Wednesday for Gilgal helped the travelers survive the eleven-hour trek. The next morning, Thursday, they headed for Jericho, a nine-hour walk. After resting in the shade for two hours, they arrived just before dark outside of the city.

Friday morning, they began the six-hour walk along the Jericho road toward Jerusalem, stopping on a small plateau three hours before reaching Jerusalem and Lucius ordered his troops to set up camp in the late afternoon. He wanted them well-rested and ready for any necessary or, unexpected duties in the morning when they arrive in Jerusalem on Saturday morning. One of the supply wagons had a wheel damaged on the rough Jericho road. Joseph and Mary, along with four soldiers, stayed on the plateau so he could repair the cracked wheel.

Joseph was not real happy about working on the Sabbath, but he knew fixing the chariot wheel was what Moses would have called necessary work; very similar to having an ox and loose him from his stall and lead him away to watering.¹⁸⁵

Lucius and his men went on to Jerusalem and met with other Centurions to discuss procedures for putting down any potential rebellion.

185 i.1 - [Luke 13:15](#)

“Tomorrow, we arrive in Bethlehem,” one of the soldiers told Joseph. “Life there will not be the same. This required census of the whole Roman Empire will be a benefit politically but will result in a larger burden on some groups of the empire.”

“How do you mean,” asked Joseph?

“Caesar Augustus needs to increase taxation, and he is attempting to be fair to all. The problem is not coming from Rome. It is “that” King Herod of Judah. He is very paranoid about maintaining his ruling power and he is extremely cruel.

“So that is why Augustus has you going to Jerusalem?” asked Joseph.

“Yes, we must keep the peace and enforce the laws,” he replied.

Joseph said trying to encourage him. “Herod may calm a bit knowing Rome is watching. I am so happy Lucius’ friend, Jeremiah, can help us when we get to Bethlehem.”

“You will find him extremely helpful,” the soldier continued. “The major caravans prefer to patronize him and his wife Ruth, who cooks as good as your Mary. You will be in good hands.”

“Good evening, thank you for all your help,” said Joseph as the soldier walked to his tent.

The next morning, streaks of daylight broke through the gaps of the tent and woke Joseph; Mary, however, was restless all night; she was up much earlier than the soldiers and had everything she could pack ready for the journey ahead.

The Hebrew couple did not like the idea of traveling on the Sabbath, but knew it was necessary in or to maintain traveling with Lucius’ men and the medical team.

Mary told Joseph the baby Jesus was kicking up quite a storm during the night. “He must be excited about going to King David’s home village,” she told him.

Soon the city of Jerusalem appeared on the horizon, snow had lightly fallen overnight adding a special beauty to the capital city. Soon they would be in Bethlehem.

It was a busy time after the census was announced, and the streets were very crowded with upset and angry people. Mary was grateful that Lucius had the wisdom to send some of his men with them.



Mary and Joseph nearing Bethlehem
Credit: photo, a Christmas card; video i.241 - [Grok](#)



The couple arrived in Bethlehem with Mary ready to have her baby. Joseph noticed that when the men entered the village, they seemed more like Roman soldiers than the fellow travelers they were with for the past few days. “Official Business,” he thought.

The village people were curious as the young Jewish couple, so well-guarded, headed to Jeremiah's Inn.

"We sure filled up earlier than ever before, that was our last customer. The Inn is full, I will go out and put up our "NO VACANCY" sign," Jeremiah told Ruth.

Arriving at the inn, the soldiers greeted Jeremiah. "Lucius asked us to guard this family until we can bring them into your care, Jeremiah. We must report back to him concerning any uprisings here in Bethlehem." the Roman Captain said.

"Thank you." Jeremiah replied. "You have done well. Greet Lucius for me; I look forward to him visiting, if possible."

Ruth sent them on their way with a bundle of their favorite snacks.

"Shalom," Jeremiah, greeted Mary as he helped her down from the donkey. "Please come in and Ruth will fix you something to eat to warm you up a bit."

"We're glad to be here," she told him. "We need a place to stay until my baby is born."

The look on Jeremiah's face puzzled her. "Mary," he said, "I am so sorry, but we have no room in the Inn. We must help you find suitable accommodation in our small village. The census of Augustus has turned our whole community upside down."

Mary quickly replied, "I don't think I can travel any further, I must rest as soon as I can."

Ruth realized immediately that Mary's baby was about to be born.

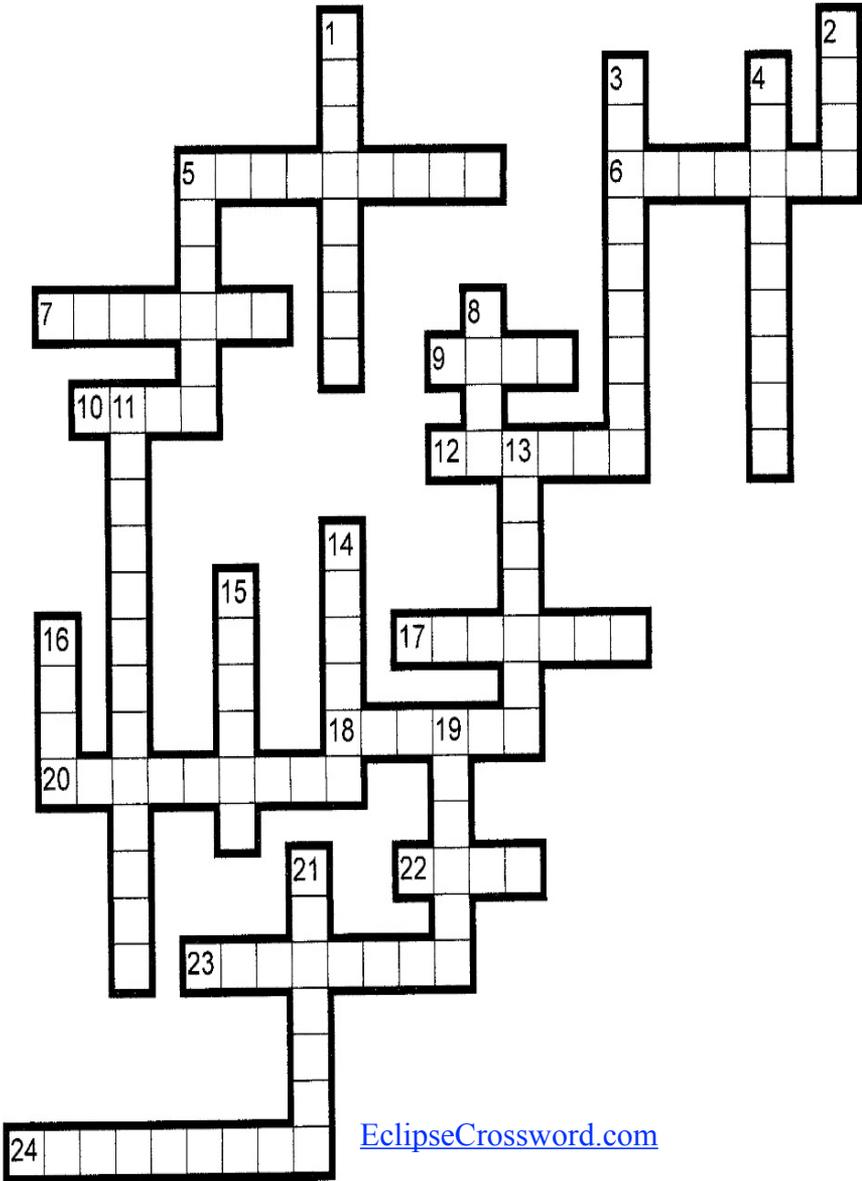
"Jeremiah, quickly, we must make room for them in the cave¹⁸⁶," she exclaimed. Joseph and Jeremiah cleared an area away from the animals and put out a lot of fresh straw.

Suddenly the men heard Ruth call out, "The baby is coming soon!"

End of Book One

¹⁸⁶ Where was Jesus born? - youthpastortheologian.com "In the midst of the uncertain details and whichever theory you believe is most likely, don't lose sight of the wonder: that a simple manger became God's throne. This is the point of the story, let's not overlook it because we're stuck in the details God didn't believe were important enough to preserve."

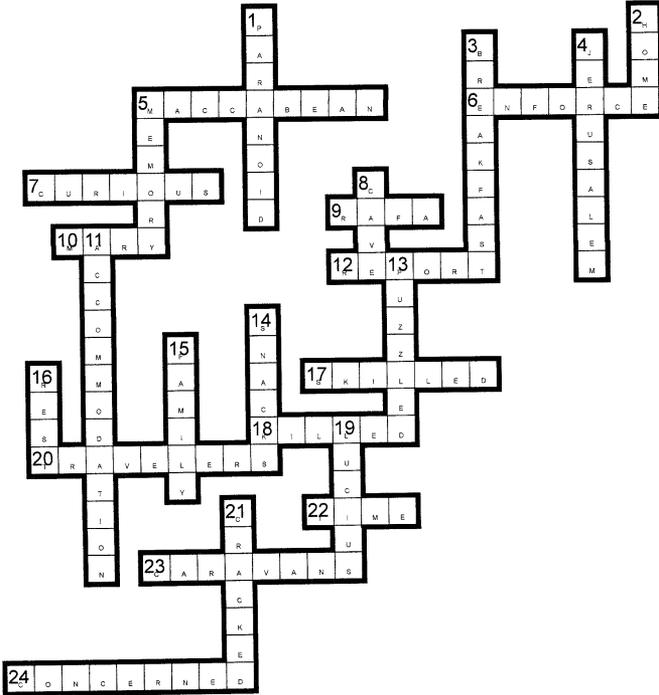
Chapter 4 puzzle



EclipseCrossword.com

Chapter 4 puzzle

Pu



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

5. MACCABEAN — the _____ revolt was against the emperical control of the Seleucids. (9)
6. ENFORCE — Lucius told Joseph, we must keep the peace and _____ the laws (7)
7. CURIOUS — The village people were _____ as the young Jewish couple (7)
9. RAFA — Dr Luke's father (4)
10. MARY — Joseph quickly locked up his shop and went home to tell _____ (4)
12. REPORT — Lucius asked us to guard this family until we can bring them into your care, Jeremiah. Then we must _____ back to him (6)
17. SKILLED — I have a _____ medical team ordered by King Herod, Lucius promised Joseph (7)
18. KILLED — Joseph's ancestor Malkiel was _____ in that battle. (6)
20. TRAVELERS — The Roman soldiers looked more like Roman soldiers than the fellow _____ they were with for the past few days. (9)
22. TIME — "It's _____ The baby is coming soon!" (4)
23. CARAVANS — The major _____ prefer to patronize him (8)
24. CONCERNED — Mary was very _____ because she was nine months pregnant with the baby Jesus (9)

Down

1. PARANOID — King Herod is very _____ about maintaining his ruling power and he is extremely cruel." (8)
2. HOME — He must be excited about going to King David's _____ village, Mary told Joseph. (4)
3. BREAKFAST — The Roman soldiers ate a bit of _____ of bread and vegetables (9)
4. JERUSALEM — Mary had been preparing the food and clothing to go to _____ for the Festival of Lights (9)
5. MEMORY — Zacharias wanted something from God, more than a _____ of the angel's promise, (6)
8. CAVE — "Jeremiah, quickly, we must make room for them in the _____," Ruth exclaimed. (4)
11. ACCOMMODATION — We must help you find suitable _____ somewhere in our small village. Jeremiah told Mzry. (13)
13. PUZZLED — "We're glad to be here," Mary told Jeremiah. "We need a place to stay until my baby is born." The look on Jeremiah's face _____ her. (7)
14. SNACKS — Ruth sent them on their way with a bundle of their favorite _____ (6)
15. FAMILY — Every man must bring his _____ to the city of his heritage. (6)
16. REST — I don't think I can travel any further, I must _____ as soon as I can. (4)
19. LUCIUS — _____ a Roman Centurion friend of Joseph (6)
21. CRACKED — Joseph stayed on the plateau so he could repair the _____ wheel (7)

Puzzle 4

Word bank

ACCOMMODATION BREAKFAST CARAVANS CAVE CONCERNED CRACKED CURIOUS
ENFORCE FAMILY HOME JERUSALEM KILLED LUCIUS MACCABEAN MARY MEMORY
PARANOID PUZZLED RAFA REPORT REST SKILLED SNACKS TIME TRAVELERS

Puzzle 4

CHARACTERS: You Will Meet in Book One

Alphabetical List

Click on their name to continue reading.

Aberaim – One of Caleb’s shepherds that watched over the sacrificial lambs in Bethlehem

Abraham (Abram) – God’s chosen father of the Israelite nation; his belief in God was counted for righteous in the Old Testament era. **Genesis 15:6**

Achan – A greedy man who disobeyed God’s orders and kept some of the bounty from Jericho **Joshua 7:1**

Adullam – Owner of a cave where King David was able to hide

Akila – She took over as caravan master after her Egyptian husband was killed by robbers that attacked their merchandise caravan.

Akl – “Intelligent” Egyptian bazaar booth owner

Alexander the Great – He became conqueror of the known world

Alexia – “understanding, intelligence, wisdom” Lampros’s wife

Anna Maria – Mother of Mary, grandmother of Jesus

Asaph – One of Caleb’s shepherds that watched over the sacrificial lambs in Bethlehem

Augustus Caesar – Emperor in Rome

Aviyah – “my father is Yahweh”, One of Caleb’s shepherds that watched over the sacrificial lambs in Bethlehem.

Benhadad – Syrian King, reigned:

Boaz – “Strength within,” Ruth’s kinsman redeemer: ff-

And Boaz said unto the elders, and *unto* all the people, Ye *are* witnesses this day, that I have

bought all that *was* Elimelech's, and all that *was* Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

Caleb – “all heart” Owner of the Inn where Jesus was born

Chacham – "wise one" Caleb’s father; expanded Inns to Jerusalem

Cyrus – “he will sing” Lampros’s assistant

Danael –

David – Second King of Israel, “a man after His own heart”. **I Samuel**

13:14

Doctor Rafa – Doctor father of Doctor Luke

Eli – Assistant to Joseph, the carpenter

Elias – The Greek name for Elijah

Eliashib - Jerusalem's High Priest in Nehemiah's time; he rebuilt the Sheep Gate.

Elijah – Old Testament Prophet

Elisabeth (Elizabeth) – “God swore an oath” Mary's cousin, Mother of John the Baptist

Elisha – Old Testament prophet and assistant to Elijah

Ezra –

Farrah – Shoshana's Mother, Joel's babysitter

Gabriel – “God is my strength” God's angel that spoke to _____, Mary, Josep & the Shepherds.

Geshem –

Gideon – A cowardly leader against the robbing Midianites; he put all his trust in God who fought Gideon's battle for him, proving to Gideon that God can and will provide assist; therefore, the term came about: “the sword of the Lord and of Gideon” God did not need Gideon to fight the battle, but He chose to use him. **Judges 7:15-18**

God – “I am that I AM” Exodus 3:14; Creator of the world; “the Lord that maketh all things.” **Isaiah 44:24**

Goliath – killed by young David because Goliath defied the armies of the One True God; David declared “the battle is the Lord's”

Heli – Joseph's father **Luke 3:23**

Hezekiah – A good King of the Israelites

Isaiah – Old Testament Prophet

Jabir – Jeremiah's older brother, works in Nazareth

Jacob – Father of the twelve tribes of Israel

Jeremiah – Paternal grandfather of Micah

Jesse – King David's father

Jesus – Hebrew Messiah, the “only begotten Son of God” **John 3:18**; the second Person of the Holy Trinity and both God and man. “Emanuel” Messiah”

Joel – Micah's father, Jesus' best friend

John – the Baptist

Joseph – “may God add” Chosen earthly guardian of young Jesus

Joseph – The youngest son of Jacob who suffered much evil that the result was God’s will and was meant for good, who became 2nd in command in Egypt, just under the Pharaoh, saving many from starvation.

Joshua – Israel’s leader after Moses died

Kalanit – Caleb's younger sister, helps Caleb to manage the inn at Jerusalem

Kallisto – wife of Cyrus, “most beautiful”. younger sister of Alexia

Kefir – “Lion cub” One of Caleb’s shepherds that watched over the sacrificial lambs in Bethlehem

King Herod – Rome appointed King of Judea

Laban – Jacob’s conniving father-in-law

Lampros – Caravan owner, friend of Jeremiah, “Shining, bright”

Lucius – Roman Centurion friend of Joseph, younger brother of Centurion Virgil

Malkiel – Caleb’s great, great, grandfather

Simchah – Jeremiah’s humorous camel

Mariamme – King Herod’s wife; he named a tower in Jerusalem sometime after he had her murdered.

Mary – Chosen Mother of Jesus

Micah – 8-year-old boy who shared 5 loaves and 2 fish that Jesus used to feed over 5,000 people.

Moriel – "God is my guide", Caleb's great grandfather leased shepherd's field in Bethlehem

Moses – God’s chosen lead to bring the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery.

Exodus 3:10

Nachman – “comforter,” Elisha’s young helper after Gehazi left

Nahash – the Amorite king attacked by the newly chosen King of Israel because Nahash offered a terrible treaty to the Jebusites. **I Samuel 11:1**

Naomi – A precious, well-loved lady from Bethlehem after husband & two sons died after moving to Moab due to a famine in their area; but returning years later with her youngest son’s widow, Ruth, the Moabitess.

Nathan –

Nathaniel – A Jewish stranger that is knowledgeable about the history of the Hebrews.

Nehemiah –

Netanel – “Known for his scholarliness” Ruth’s brother-in-law in Nain

Netanya – “gift from God” Ruth's helper at the Inn/Café

Nir – Caleb's uncle in Nazareth, wealthy orchard owner

OT prophet Jeremiah –

Peter – a fisherman called to be one of the original 12 disciples of Jesus

Matthew 10:2

Pharoah – title for the King of Egypt

Phurah – Gideon's trusted servant, his support person **Judges 17:10**

Rabbi Tamir – Jeremiah's Nazareth Rabbi

Rachael – “tenderness” Micah's maternal grandmother

Rahab – A Jericho resident who saved her family by helping the Israeli spies because she believed in the One True God. **Joshua 2:9-13**

Rebecca – Ruth's sister in Nain

Ro'I – “my shepherd” Caleb's grandfather

Ruth – Micah's paternal grandmother, manages Bethlehem Inn/Café

Ruth – Moabitess, widow of Mahlon (**Ruth 4:10**) that joined Naomi when she returned to Bethlehem

Samuel – Old Testament Prophet

I Samuel 3:20 who anointed both Saul

I Samuel 9:27-10:1-9 and **15:17** and

David **Samuel 16:13** as King of Israel.

Sanballat – An Horonite leader who laughed at and harassed Nehemiah while he rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem.

Saul – First King of the Israelites

Simchah – Jeremiah's humorous camel

Sennacherib – King of Assyria

Shoshana – Joel's babysitter at the Inn

Solomon – son of King David & Bathsheba

Virgil – Centurion who helped Jeremiah and Ruth from Jericho to Jerusalem

Tobias –

Zacharias – “remembering God”, priest, father of John the Baptist

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8, 41, 43, 48, 59-61	i.204-Holy Land Site multiple items	https://www.holylandsite.com	
9	Book 29. Page 43 Mary's Hometown	<i>The Land of Galilee & the North</i> , Colonel Sir Charles W. Wilson; Ariel Publishing House, Jerusalem November 1975	QR Not Available
24	i.163- Battles in the Bible	https://godsbreath.net/2013/01/15/list-of-bible-battles/	
24	i-83-Transport Geography Silk Road	https://transportgeography.org/contents/chapter1/emergence-of-mechanized-transportation-systems/silk-road-arab-sea-routes-12th-century/	

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24	i.25.255-James Strange, The University of South Florida Sepphoris	https:// bibleinterp.arizona.edu/ articles/sepphoris#main- content	
26	i.140-Sergio and Rhoda In Israel Holy Land videos (youtube)	https://www.youtube.com/ watch? v=OljDGHIGLn0&t=50s	
27, 28	i.101-Dreamstime Camel Photos	http:// www.dreamstime.com/	
30	i.36-Veterinary World Common camel parasites	https:// www.veterinaryworld.org/ 2008/October/9.html	
31	174-Adventure Travel Media Buying a camel (guide)	https://adventure.com/ buying-camel-expedition- animals/	
39, 42	Pages 415 & 419 Alexander's forces.	<i>A History of Israel</i> , John Bright; The Westminster Press, Philadelphia 1959/1972	

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39	Book 4, Page 53 Desert temperature changes	<i>A Pilgrimage to Palestine</i> , Harry Emerson Fosdick, D.D.; The MacMillan Company, New York , 1927	
41, 42	i.209-Theology Academy Footprints of Gilgal youtube	https://www.youtube.com/ watch? v=LwjBHbMwWNQ	
42	i.235-Holy Land Photos Jordan River Flood stage	https://www.youtube.com/ watch? v=38-8wTNKsDI&t=39s	
47	i.140 Sergio and Rhoda Road from Jericho to Jerusalem	https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=q6Uz9gIdm68	
47	i.238- myjewishlearnng.c om Shakshuka recipe	https:// www.myjewishlearning.co m/recipe/shakshuka/	
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49, 52, 59	i.207-All Recipes.com Matzo Ball Soup, Challah & Potato Pancakes recipes	https:// www.allrecipes.com	
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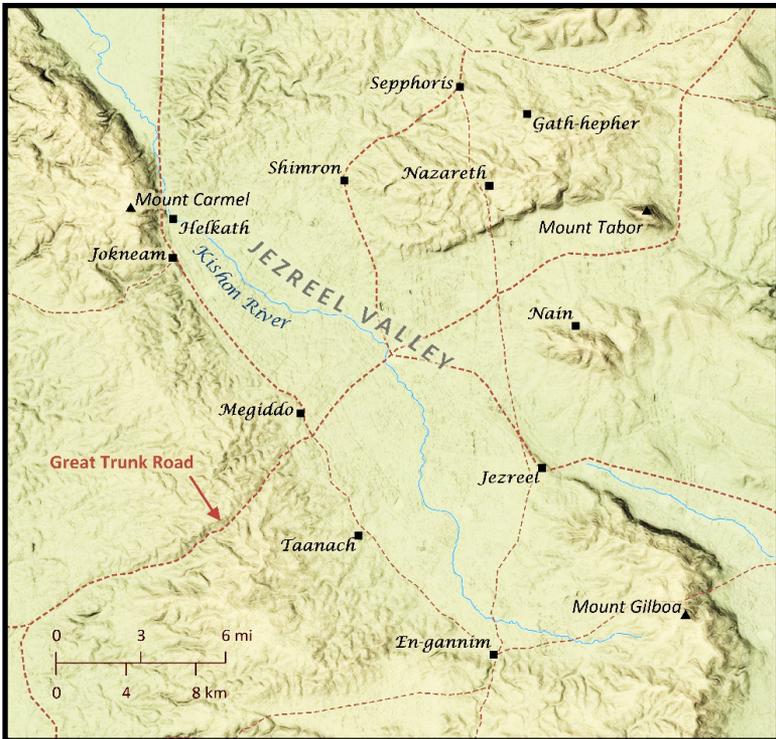
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54, 55, 80, 83	i.123-Biblestudy.org Maps/cities of Israel	https:// www.biblestudy.org/	
A54	i.215-Jewish Learning Institute Kippah defined	https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=vA9ZnoZZ7Dw	
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Maps

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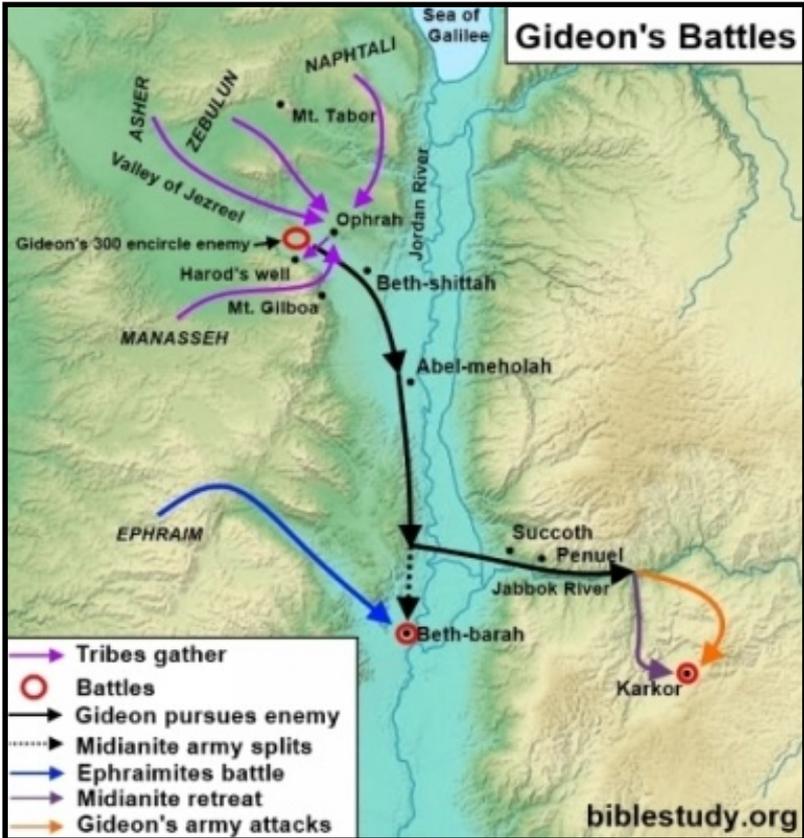
The Jezreel Valley



li.164 Jezreel Valley, biblemapper.com



[Nazareth to Sepphoris Map](#)



[Gideon's Battle Map](#)

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